Kine WEEKLY

OPERATORS RESERVATION C.E.A. STATEMENT

See page 3

garbOH!

That loud noise you heard yesterday was the trade laughing itself into happy stitches over the Garbo comedy that has been in the headlines for weeks . . . *it's a sensation!*

Greta **GARBO** · Melvyn **DOUGLAS**

CONSTANCE BENNETT • ROLAND YOUNG

in George Cukor's production

TWO-FACED WOMAN

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

See pages 11 and 12

Kinematograph WEEKLY

No. 1809 Thursday, December 18, 1941. Vol. 298

N.W. C.E.A. PLANS A TRAINING SCHEME

See page 24

RESERVATION OF PROJECTIONISTS

How the New Schedule Affects Exhibitors

C.E.A. MEMORANDUM

THE deferment blanketing of chief projectionists is assumed as the result of the working of the new schedule of reserved occupations.

SECOND PROJECTIONISTS, HOWEVER, ARE NOW SUBJECT TO A PROGRESSIVE RESERVATION FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT FROM THE AGE OF 36, RISING BY ONE YEAR EACH MONTH.

A memorandum concerning the main points has been issued by the C.E.A., in which it is pointed out that each man will be notified of the date upon which he ceases to be de-reserved.

An explanation of the working of the new Schedule of Reserved Occupations as it affects kinema projectionists has been issued to all members of the C.E.A. by W. R. Fuller, general secretary.

The memorandum is as follows:—

Pending further arrangements, the following is the position regarding reservation of projectionists:—

Second Projectionists

Second projectionists will have their ages of reservation raised by one year on the first of each month. Thus. the age of reservation for this occupation becomes 36 on January 1 next, 37 on February 1, and so on.

A Ministry of Labour postcard, N.S.192, will be sent to each man affected by this arrangement, stating the date on which he will cease to be reserved.

Employers can make application for the deferment of the calling-up of these projectionists by means of an application form, No. N.S.300, which can be obtained at any local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. These forms, when completed, should be forwarded to the office of the Ministry of Labour shown on the man's certificate of registration (N.S.2). In the case of men de-reserved on January 1 these forms should be lodged before December 24.

In future months the application must be lodged at least 15 days before the date on which the man ceases to be reserved. If the employer does not make such an application for deferment the man himself can make a personal application on the grounds of personal hardship, on a form which will be handed to him at the time of his medical examination. This must be completed and forwarded within two days.

Chief Projectionists

We are informed that first or chief projectionists, properly registered as such, and aged 35 and upwards, are not affected and should not receive the Ministry of Labour postcards N.S.192.

We are informed that local Employment Exchanges have been instructed accordingly, so that if any man receives one of these cards it should be sent immediately to this office, so that steps can be taken to deal with the matter.

It is important to note that this withholding of de-reservation only applies to those men who are correctly registered as first or chief projectionists.

With regard to first or chief projectionists between the ages of 25 and 34 inclusive, no notification has been received that the position in regard to these men has undergone a change.

We understand that such men are not subject to enlistment until further instructions are issued by the Ministry.

They may be called for medical examination, following which their papers go to the various Regional Labour Controllers in whose office they are retained. It is possible the position may be affected by the new National Services Act, but the General Council is seeking an immediate interview with Lord Terrington, of the Ministry of Labour, and a further communication will be sent in due course.

NORTH IRELAND C.E.A. BRANCH OFFICIALS

Inaugural Meeting

AT the inaugural meeting of the Northern Ireland Branch of the C.E.A., the first presidency was conferred upon J. D. Russell of the Ritz, Belfast, other officials were also appointed and a former resolution applying for a charter for the formation of the branch was agreed to by the meeting which represented all parts of the province.

There are about 100 kinemas in the four Northern counties, and already 60 per cent. have applied for membership, which, it is anticipated, will achieve the full 100 per cent. at an early date.

The following officials were also elected:—

Vice-president, John Curran (Curran Circuit); treasurer, J. Quinn (Gaiety); hon. secretary, S. M. Goldstein; trustees, Murray Bass (Irish Theatres, Ltd.) and Edmond Bryans (Coleraine Picture House); committee, J. M'Cann, George Lodge, H. Wilton, Derek Finney, T. J. Furey and B. M. M'Guigan.

J. D. Russell pointed out that the branch would meet on a different day to the White Cinema Club, which would now no longer deal with business matters, but purely social and benevolent work of the whole Trade.

KINEMA POSTERS

No Relaxation

The KINE. understands that, despite efforts made by the C.E.A. and K.R.S. to induce the Minister of Supply to relax the Paper Order to allow a larger display of posters, the Minister has intimated that no relaxation is possible.

QUOTA REDUCTION AGREED

Longer Runs and Reissues Under Consideration

The decision of the Board of Trade to stabilise the quota requirements of British films for the next three years was before the House of Commons on Tuesday, and passed. As already quoted in the KINE., the revisions are: Renters' quota, features 20 per cent., shorts 15 per cent.; exhibitors' quota, features 20 per cent., shorts 12½ per cent.

Tom Smith said British producers were greatly concerned about the future; particularly about the position arising from the United States coming into the war. It might be that America would have to restrict production. Efforts must be made to get sufficient and suitable films to satisfy the demands of the 23 millions of British patrons.

Mr. Smith asked for an assurance about the production of films of a character to stand up to a week's run instead of three days. He also referred to old films worth a re-showing, but which would necessitate certain arrangements within the completed quota system.

Capt. Waterhouse said the Board of Trade was considering both these points.

WAR OFFICE COMMITTEE

W. J. Speakman has been invited to become a member of the new War Office Kinematograph Committee, the C.E.A. having requested additional representation on the Committee of which Capt. Paul Kimberley is chairman.

This committee replaces the former Joint War Office Film Industry Committee which has now been dissolved. Other representatives of the C.E.A. on the new committee are Col. S. K. Lewis (President), E. J. Hinge (Treasurer), Coun. H. P. E. Mears (Past-President) and W. R. Fuller (General Secretary).

Renters are not represented, the K.R.S., as stated in last week's KINE., having withdrawn their nominees' mandate.

The first meeting of the War Office Kinematograph Committee will be held early in the new year.

C. M. WOOLF,
who has been elected chairman of the British Film Producers' Association

STILLS MAY STOP

Board of Trade Order Shortly

It is expected that very shortly an Order will be issued by the Board of Trade limiting the amount of photographic paper used for stills by producers and distributors of films.

The need to economise in the use of photographic paper and chemicals is responsible for the restriction which is likely to be made.

Members of the C.E.A. in the persons of Lieut.-Col. S. K. Lewis, H. P. E. Mears and W. R. Fuller attended a meeting at the offices of the Board of Trade last Thursday, when the problem was examined from the point of view of producers of films and the importance of stills in presenting production pictures.

It has even been hinted that instead of restriction there may be total prohibition of the use of stills for publicity purposes.

HOLLYWOOD WILL DELIVER THE FILMS

U.S. Producers Reassure Exhibitors

ALTHOUGH early reactions to the first impact of hostilities inferred a disruption of Hollywood's production activities, more recent advices clearly indicate that the major producers intend to go forward with their announced schedules, which may be, of course, altered to attune subjects to more topical themes.

An inquiry conducted by the KINE. reveals that there will be little reduction in the amount of product emanating from Hollywood, where, notwithstanding the "state of emergency" declared in California, and the attendant difficulties of black-out, etc., producers intend to carry on with their already announced programmes. For the moment star-power does not seem to be affected, although subsequent months will doubtless witness the withdrawal of many front-rank personalities. Executives, however, appear fairly confident that the first year of the U.S. participation in the world war will not materially affect British screens.

In Hollywood all studios now start work on an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily shift, thus permitting workers to return to their homes before black-out. Night filming has been discontinued.

Studio managers are arranging mutual protection and the Producers' Association is placing all studio equipment and facilities at the disposal of the War Department, states a KINE. cable.

As regards exhibition, with black-outs in many cities, all the industry is formulating plans for operation in event of raids. For the moment grosses are badly hit in many spots, but expected to regain normality soon.

M-G-M. Carries On

There is no reason to anticipate any alteration in the production policy of M-G-M. Sam Eckman, jun., interviewed by KINE., stated that his routine communications gave every indication of the normal procedure being adhered to and neither in numbers nor quality was there any indication of a readjustment due to war conditions—or any other.

As to the general Hollywood outlook, if there were a serious shortage of staffs owing

Continued on page 7

STUDIO MAN-POWER PLAN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Producers Discuss Urgent Problems

THE agreement of the Director-General of Man-Power with the recommendations of the Studio Panel is announced in an official communication to the British Film Producers' Association.

This and the temporary release of artistes at present serving with the Forces, the establishment of a central interchange bureau of clothing and costumes were among important matters discussed by producers' representatives attending a meeting in London on Monday last.

The meeting was called by the British Film Producers' Association and a very representative gathering resulted.

Consideration was given to the position of procuring the temporary liberation of men and women artistes now in the Forces, and it was decided that producers should let the Association know what personnel they would like to have, the pictures for which they were wanted, and a date when shooting commenced. The Association would then use pressure with the M. of I. and the Ministry to get these people released.

The receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Labour and National Service was reported in which the Ministry stated that it was prepared to accept the Panel recommendation subject to the following qualifications necessitated by the very increased need for the younger mobile women for the Services and for munitions work:—

(*a*) the recommendation that neither the volume of production nor the total personnel employed in the Industry should be reduced, must be understood to be subject to review in the light of the development of the man-power situation in the future.

(*b*) The Ministry of Labour cannot undertake to submit for employment in this Industry any mobile women of the age groups which have been registered, as all these have been required for the Services or for munitions work, and

(*c*) In the case of women aged 20 to 25 inclusive employed in the Industry, the Ministry must be free to transfer to vital war work all of those who are mobile subject, in the case of pivotal workers, to a reasonable time for substituting older women.

The necessary instructions have been given for the recommendations to be carried into effect, subject to these qualifications.

The Association has since been informed by the Ministry that it is impossible to define exactly what a "pivotal worker" is. Generally, however, it can be said that a typist cannot be so considered, nor may private secretaries. The Ministry takes the view that each case must necessarily be considered on its merits.

A scheme was put forward for consideration by producers whereby different studios, if official consent could be obtained, would be allowed to interchange clothes which were bought through coupons obtained from the B. of T. Those present were all very much in favour of such a scheme and were in agreement that the association should act as a clearing house for the exchange.

It was generally agreed to ask all those present to join the Association, and the meeting was adjourned to a further meeting on Tuesday, December 23, at 2.30.

Rommel on the Run

BRITISH MOVIETONE NEWS

KINEMATOGRAPH WEEKLY

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BRIGHTON'S DEMAND

WHETHER it is a strategic stroke aimed at discovering the amounts taken at Brighton box-offices on Sundays, or whether it is a simple demand for a 50 per cent. increase in charity contributions, the new extortion proposed by the Brighton Council calls for prompt and united resistance.

Already the kinemas within the Council's boundary are giving a regular £1,000 a year as a charity contribution, and this is for the privilege of contributing to the entertainment amenities on which the name and fame of the town are based. We are so accustomed to this sort of impost that it should be unnecessary to add that no other form of Sunday trading is subject to any such toll.

Now, in the manner approved in less respectable circles than Town Councils, it has been decided to ask for a big increase. This is no new procedure; in fact, people who make unreasonable demands for money always do it sooner or later.

Of course, if all the dance halls, Sunday concerts, and other forms of entertainment were to be made subject to a similar ruling, it would be just as unjust, but as they are not, the resentment of the kinema proprietors is naturally all the keener.

Perhaps the suggestion that if they wish to protest effectively, they should prepare financial statements of their revenue and expenses is a most dangerous feature of the new demand.

This is one of the considerations which we have had to be on our guard against on many occasions. By fair means or foul, local finance departments have been employing all their ingenuity for many years to get a chance of inspecting the books of kinemas, and a wise policy has invariably been maintained throughout to refuse access to these figures.

Even if we were to weaken on this policy, it would be impossible to show satisfactorily the results of Sunday opening. One might try to find it out for one's own shareholders, and even then fail to secure a satisfactory statement.

When a hall is open seven days a a week, film hire, labour, lighting, advertising, rates, taxes, and general overheads can only be misleading if one-seventh is taken as a fair representation of any one particular day. But the actual box-office receipts can be quoted, and it is this that the Council wants to know.

Of course, it must also be remembered that at Brighton and a good many other coast towns there was a period when many of the kinemas were shut, and many more might as well have been shut. It should not be difficult to suggest that these disastrous periods be taken into consideration if the business now being done is assessed for any purpose.

This, however, does not come into the scheme. All the Council wants—on the surface—is another £500 a year; if the exhibitors do not feel inclined to subscribe this, there is the more or less concealed threat of an inspection of the books.

Nobody seems to think anything of the easy £1,000 a year already regularly paid over to charitable funds except as a jumping-off ground for further demands. And in case readers with a shrug of the shoulders say calmly this is a matter for the Brighton proprietors to worry about, let us remind them that what is done in that town to-day will surely be followed by local authorities all over the country.

Long Shots

THE PRODUCERS' LEADER—DESERT TOKENS—A MOVING THRENODY—SCOTTISH J.P.—INDIA'S REPLY IN ENGLISH—BACK FROM EIRE

AMONG the many names "tipped" for the chairmanship of the British Film Producers' Association, that of C. M. Woolf had hardly been considered. This was from no other reason than that it was thought that C. M. had his hands more than full at present with his old and new commitments as head of G.F.D. and managing director of the G.-B. Corporation.

BUT C.M. never shirks a job of work, and when the matter of the chairmanship of the Producers' Association was put to him (by F. W. Baker, I believe) he expressed his readiness to fill the presidential chair.

UNDER his guidance, the Association should go ahead fast, for the whole Trade has confidence in him and his ability. There are few people in the Industry who would lay claim to the experience in the film business which he has from every side, while his instinct for selecting the right moment to act and the best way of acting is uncanny.

IF any evidence were needed of British adaptability to surrounding circumstances, it is supplied this week by the receipt of Christmas cards from the Western Desert and Eritrea. They came from Ralph Bromhead, presumably doing desperate deeds amid the heat and dust of an arid land; and C. A. Cousland, formerly script writer at Elstree, away south doing Press Officer duties in Italy's lost colony.

ANYTHING less Christmasy in the traditional manner than overhead sun, underfoot sand, an outsize in thirsts, and the crash of bombs and artillery shell is hard to conceive, yet these two old film hands have found time to send the usual compliments in the same old way.

RALPH has one advantage over others of a prodigious memory for verse and *belles-lettres*, and his card bears a quotation from some verse I spouted to him once (only once)—at a London branch luncheon, at which Arthur Moss threatened to render us both unconscious with his chairman's gavel.

TUESDAY'S cocktail—I had almost written "Corkle-tale"—party at Grosvenor House Hotel, to which Maxie Thorpe invited his friends of the Press, turned out to be one of those happy informal affairs which are so enjoyable as an opportunity to meet old friends and talk agreeable shop.

WHEN I saw the invitation "to discuss Max Corkle's extraordinary story of 'Here Comes Mr. Jordan,'" and before seeing the film, too, I felt at a disadvantage, but we were soon at ease in the old familiar way. It was hoped that Robert Montgomery would be the guest of honour, but he had already returned to the States three weeks ago.

SIDE by side with the Columbia invitation was one for Wednesday (yesterday), this time at Oddenino's, Sir Herbert Morgan being the host. This was arranged in connection with the gala presentation on Monday next of "A Yank in the R.A.F.," the Twentieth-Fox super-picture, at the Gaumont, Haymarket, the proceeds of which will be given to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund of which Sir Herbert is Chairman.

LADIES of the fund committee and members of the American Eagle Squadron were present at the party, and I heard from them that there will be an impressive line-up of big names in the Air Force at the gala show, from Air Marshal Babington downwards.

NO one who was present on Thursday of last week at the memorial service to Oscar Deutsch at the Upper Berkeley Street Synagogue is likely to forget the moving eloquence of Dr. Cohen's address. Phrased to perfection, the fine product of a devout mind mourning a friend of whom he had been bereaved, it created a deep impression on all who heard it. There were many who came away from the synagogue feeling that no more moving testimony to the worth of a departed friend had ever been uttered in their hearing.

ARITHMETICAL calculations put years on some people. Last week our tame mathematician went sadly astray in his subtraction in a paragraph dealing with the ages of British players and directors in Hollywood. Cary Grant, who is 32 or 34—the "Motion Picture Almanack" is undecided—was set down as 50, Robert Stevenson, who is 36, was also credited with his half-century, as was "Hitch," who is 41. Even Edmund Gwenn did not escape. He is 64, but our printer insisted that he was only 6 (a sort of child prodigy), and in the hasty correction at the last minute he was given an additional two years.

DENHAM, look to your laurels! And Shepherds Bush beware the peril from the East! India is entering into competition with you by producing its first film with English dialogue, "The Court Dancer." It has been shown "with great success," says an Indian film magazine, at the Metro., both in Bombay and Calcutta.

IT would be interesting to have a European's reaction to the picture. The magazine states that the film is to be released throughout the English-speaking countries of the world by Columbia Pictures, so it may not be long before it is seen in London.

ALEXANDER SHAW is just back in London after being in India for a year holding down the position of adviser to the Government of India on films. Alex., one of the pioneers of the documentary film movement, was released from his position as director of productions to the Strand Film Company for one year by Donald Taylor so he could take up his important Government job.

BACK from Eire, which he has visited on a business trip for British Lion, ... A. Myers, the company's general manager, reports good business over there, and the discovery of an optimist who is building a kinema in Southern Ireland, a ch... ring sign with the whole world at war.

SPECIAL receptions were arrang... in honour of Mr. Myers, both in D...blin and Belfast. In Northern I...land industry is busy on the war effort an... this is reflected in the picture houses and ...eep-ing box-offices busy.

MICHAEL POWELL, just back ...rom Dublin, where he has been doi...g a number of lectures, reports tha... big picture success of the moment is John Baxter's production of the British Na...onal success "Love on the Dole." Pict...re is now in its fourth week with strong ...ossibilities of running for six.

GEORGE FORMBY'S popularity, both in person and in shadow is phenom...nal, and his lightning tour of Salis...ury Plain for ENSA this week, when he entertains the troops at two and possibly three camps per night on each of those days, looks like a tour of triumph.

W. J. Gell, O.B.E., managing director of Pathe, with Sir Joseph Ball at the recent premiere at the Regal, Marble Arch, of BANANA RIDGE (A.B.P.C.), which Pathe is distributing

LOOKING very fit and well, and even more popular than usual with his friends in the documentary movement, as he brought back a case of oranges from South Africa, he told me he had an uneventful trip back, and although he took his turn at the A.A. guns on the ship every day for a couple of hours or so, no Jerry submarines or aeroplanes appeared. Alex. has promised that he will give me a full story on the Indian film position during the next few days.

HOT FROM U.S.

Kine. New York Cable from Motion Picture Daily

***DAVID ROSE** in America sees the possibility in the future of British Government removing all restrictions on remittances of U.S. companies, since the U.S. in war has equal need of currency. He points to the fact that only 340 British houses are now closed, which is indicative of the remarkable British effort.*

***THE INDUSTRY** two-day unity discussion in Chicago was overshadowed by war, but makes an historic move for a working basis of inter-industry harmony long sought. National Committee on conciliation has been formed, and a permanent Motion Picture Industry Conference Committee planned representing M.P.T.O.A., Allied States and Independent Exhibitor Groups and Distributors.*

***UNIVERSAL GROSS** for fiscal year ended November 2 is over $30,000,000.*

***BERT STEARN**, District Manager, is named Western Division Manager for U.A., succeeding Haskell Masters.*

***ALL U.S. RADIO** is now under Government Defence Board control by Presidential order.*

***MUCH FAR EASTERN** market business, it is now believed, is still open. Shipments are being accepted and certain ship lanes are anticipated to remain available. The Industry combines to pledge full support to Roosevelt in war.*

***M-G-M** revises "Two-Faced Woman" after Decency Legion condemnation.*

ON December 28 he will appear for ENSA at the Royal Albert Hall, this being his first appearance at that august home of music where few, if any, comedians of his type have ever appeared before. The occasion will be a grand concert organised by ENSA in aid of King George's Fund for Sailors (for the dependants of Officers and men of the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets).

A BRIEF visit from P. J. Fryer, formerly in charge of RCA's publicity, in the uniform of a naval sub-lieutenant. P. J., who has for years been an enthusiastic yachtsman, has been exercising his former hobby—in charge of a patrol boat for two years. Keen as mustard on boats and seamanship, he will not even now give details of a little job he did a few months ago which earned him great praise for his initiative and resource.

A PARAGRAPH in last week's KINE, in which Harry Harris, of the Tudor, West Bridgford, Nottingham, was referred to as Harry Ham, has "egged" on that gentleman to a characteristic protest. He was, he admits, a "ham" actor for some years, but his theme song isn't Henery the Eighth, I "ham"t nevertheless the award of a couponless Christmas "ham" is welcome, especially in these difficult days. We must look to our "points."

IN the latest list issued on Monday morning of the new Justices of the Peace for the County of the City of Glasgow, the Kinema Trade has been honoured by the inclusion of three of its members—Fred Green; George Taylor, chairman of the Scottish Branch, C.E.A.; an old friend, Jimmy McBride, chairman of the Scottish Cinema Trade Benevolent Fund. All three honours are worthily earned.

IN these days of proposed restriction of credit titles, Paul Soskin's hundred-strong cast in "The Day Will Dawn" appears to demand some abbreviations on the screen. Harold French has suggested to Paul that it should read "Ralph Richardson, Deborah Kerr, Hugh Williams, and other British artistes, except two who were unavailable."

THE STROLLER.

Close-Ups

By

— Screencomber —

LONGSLAB AGAIN

LANCELOT LONGSLAB, Britain's fearless fighting Hollywood hero, finds himself in a quandary. Although he has fought almost every screen battle from the crusades to the Battle of Britain, the jeers and sneers of an ungrateful Homeland drove him to take out American papers. Now that America is at war, Longslab plans to sail for Ireland to register there as a citizen of Eire. Lancelot is, in fact, "Giving Hollywood the Eire."

THE GOSPEL OF EMGEEM

SAYS Dorothy Sayers: "Inventing Bible English too often results in making the characters talk Wardour Street English."

How right she is! For instance, where an ordinary newspaper might carry a brief announcement saying "M-G-M plans a big, new, Press publicity campaign," this same terse, concise item is liable to appear in the Trade papers something like this:—

"And it came to pass that Eckman, Son of Leo, rose up, crying, 'Bring me my staff that I may journey forth, even unto the Land of Wardour and beyond, that hence I may spread the Gospel of Emgeem.'

"And they brought him his staff and he journeyed forth out of Ricky, even unto Wardour and beyond, until he came unto the great Empire of Lestor, where he tarried.

"And, behold, menservants in gorgeous raiment cried out, 'See, it is the Guv who has come upon us.' And with many salutations they led him unto the sanctum of his prophet, one, Mak, Son of Pher, and the Son of Pher arose bowing and cried, 'Welcome, mighty chieftain, what object has brought thee hence to gladden the poor eyes of your unworthy servant.'

"And the Son of Leo answered, saying, 'It is my wish that you should go forth even unto the Land of Fleet, and there among the scribes and scoffers spread the gospel of Emgeem that they may recognise Leo as all-powerful.'

"And then Mak spake, saying, 'Thy every wish is a command to this humble servant, but know, lord Guv, that this may take many talents and shekels, for the Land of Fleet is a dry land, and though the scribes may thirst for news of Emgeem, they thirst, nevertheless, for their tongues are dry and their throats parched, even as the Sahara in a heat-wave.'

"But Eckman, Son of Leo, Guv of Emgeem, answered, saying, 'Take thou, then, many talents and see that their thirst for Emgeem is quenched, and look to it that their dry tongues are oiled that they might wag easier, and their parched throats irrigated that they may become fertile, and from their mouths might grow great tidings of Emgeem.'

"And then the Son of Leo witnessed an awesome sight, for the Mighty Son of Pher rose up and from his eyes there flashed fire and out of his mouth there poured great volumes of hot air.

"And so it came about that the Son of Pher journeyed forth unto the Land of Fleet, and the rafters rang with the news of Emgeem and the Gables echoed with the glories of its Honkies and its Tonks.

"And on the morrow the scribes crawled forth and gazed sadly one upon another, saying, 'See, I pass my hand across my forehead and my tongue has a covering even unto that of an Eskimo's winter undergarment, and the gospel of Emgeem is still emblazoned on my brain in letters of fire, like the once mighty Neon of the Empire of Lestor. Let us to the herbalist and mix us a potion of dog hair even as the canine that did us bite.'

"And the scribes rose up, crying, 'Yeh, verily. Lettus Ave Aliven Ar!'"

BURNING MEMORIES

THERE is something terribly nostalgic to hear British film executives humming the song hit, "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire." A far away look creeps into their eyes and no doubt memories are stirred of the great days when British studios blazed their way to fame. "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire"! Maybe the producers haven't any ambition these days, or maybe they can't insure the world.

THREAT TO HITLER

A NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN report on the outbreak of war said that Victor McLaglen was cruising in his yacht off the Californian coast when the news came through. Then, according to the Fleet Street scribe who happened to be sailing with him, Victor rushed to the bows and fired off a toy cannon. "That," he is reported to have said, "is my answer to Hitler."

Once again Hitler must be quaking in his shoes for Victor has now offered his famed light horse for Civil Defence. Inspired by such deeds of loyalty, Screencomber has offered his famous Light Infantry for the same purpose, with a guarantee that every Light Infantryman will be well lit.

Trade Mourns Oscar Deutsch

MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LONDON

AT the memorial service for the late Oscar Deutsch, at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, last Friday, over 500 employees of Odeon Theatres paid a last tribute to their departed chief. Rabbi H. Reinhart officiated, assisted by Dr. Italiener. Members of the family present included Mrs. Deutsch (widow), Mr. Ronald Deutsch, Master David Deutsch and Master Gerald Deutsch (sons), Mr. Michael Kramer.

The largest gathering of film Trade personalities to be seen for some time was also present to honour the memory of a great film figure whose career was so tragically short. Among Trade and other personages present were: Earl Winterton, J. A. Rank, C. M. Woolf, S. Eckman, Jun. (M-G-M), F. Bates, Mr. Elcock and J. A. Callum (directors, Odeon Theatres), Sir Edward Mountain, Sir Patrick Hannon, M.P., and Lady Hannon, H. Boxall, the Rev. B. R. Isaac, Simon Marks, John Sutro, J. H. Davis, A. C. Swift, Mrs. Florence Guedalla, W. J. Gell, C.B.E. (Pathé), Max Thorpe (Columbia), Ben Henry (A.B.F.D.), Michael and Mrs. Balcon (Ealing), Commander A. W. Jarratt (G.-B.), Harold Boxall (Denham).

J. Vegoda (RKO-Radio Pictures), A. M. Kaizer (Polish Jewish Refugee Fund), M. Levy (Kent branch, C.E.A. of Great Britain and Ireland), J. C. Atkinson and F. W. Watkin (RCA Photophone), J. Francis (United Artists), F. W. Baker (Kinematograph Renters' Society), J. Simmons (Anglo-American Films), W. H. Thornton (Leicester Square Odeon Theatre), Marcel Hellman.

F. E. Hutchinson (Paramount Films), J. N. Phillips (Renown Pictures Company), W. Harcourt and J. W. Pendleton (Denham Laboratories), B. Smith (representing Equity), W. C. Lusk (B.T.H. Company), the Rev. S. L. Solomons, E. E. Wilson (Critics' Circle), E. Greenspan (Columbia Pictures), Miss Kay (representing Miss Frances Day's Penny Fund), the staff of the head office of Odeon Theatres, and members of the staffs of many Odeon theatres were also present, including representatives from Leslie Howard and other stars and Trade executives.

The moving address was given by the Rev. Dr. Cohen, of Singer's Hill Synagogue, Birmingham, where Oscar Deutsch worshipped. Dr. Cohen, personal friend of Deutsch for 29 years, recalled the high ideals the late Odeon chief had always striven to attain in his private and professional life. He was, Dr. Cohen said, not only a prominent figure in the film world, but a remarkable character in the annals of Anglo-Jewry.

On behalf of everyone present, Dr. Cohen concluded by tendering heartfelt sympathy in their sad loss to Mrs. Oscar Deutsch and her family.

C.E.A. President's Tribute

The President of the C.E.A., at last week's General Council, paid a moving tribute to the memory of Oscar Deutsch. He said:

Since our last meeting the Trade has suffered a severe loss in the death of Mr. Deutsch. Some ten years ago he was a man controlling and/or owning about three little kinemas, and in that ten years he built up a circuit which was the admiration of all who came into contact with it in its perfection of organisation and efficient running.

During that period, if one puts in the background the controversy which always arises when someone is forging ahead, I think we will all agree that everything he did reflected credit upon this industry, and, furthermore, improved our relations and prestige with the general public.

He was a man beloved by those who knew him well, admired by those who, perhaps, only knew him a little and perhaps a little envied by those who did not know him much, but, nevertheless, underlying all was a deep admiration and affection for this man.

Perhaps this was most evident in those whom he employed. His staffs throughout the country looked upon him as their guide, philosopher and friend in more senses than one. This Trade will be much poorer by the passing of Oscar Deutsch, it can ill afford to lose a man of his quality, and I am going to ask you to join with me in sending to Mrs. Deutsch sincere condolences in her irreparable loss and to convey to her in your name our sympathy and our eulogies for all he has done in the past for our Industry.

The delegates stood in silence.

N. Western C.E.A. Condolence

At the outset of the meeting, J. M. CANNON referred to the pasing of Oscar Deutsch, whom he described as one of the most notable and distinguished characters in the kinema Trade. Comment was made on his deep interest in the welfare of the exhibiting Industry and especially in staff matters. A resolution of condolence was passed.

W. EASTWAY SOUTH undertook to convey the branch sentiments to the proper quarter.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN BRISTOL

G. H. Blackburn (treasurer) and S. W. Savery (secretary), of the Bristol C.E.A. branch, applied to the Bristol Licensing Justices for permission to open 19 kinemas on Christmas Day from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., with music from 2.30 p.m., when the doors opened. The application was granted.

An application by the manager of the Empire Music Hall, Bristol, for a licence to open the house on Christmas Day was made at the same time and was refused.

On the application of W. Peel-Smith, the general manager, Southport justices have granted the extension of the music licence of the Plaza on New Year's Eve until 12.15 a.m. (New Year's Day).

Industry and War Savings Campaign

TO THE EDITOR

WAR DAMAGE INSURANCE

How It Should Be Changed

MR. SNAPE'S letter in your issue of December 11 is one which cannot, I feel, go unchallenged. The question whether a dividend should be paid or passed depends upon so many different circumstances that it is impossible to generalise; yet it is important that the impression should not get abroad that it is seldom or never advisable to withhold a dividend if there is a sufficient balance wherewith to pay it. Only when all the facts are known can it be decided what reserve to keep.

A kinema may be passing through a period of prosperity which may be merely temporary; in this case to pay out dividends from surplus earnings may be bad finance. A time may be ahead when earnings may decrease, replacement of apparatus be costly, and the surplus earnings be needed to carry on through a period of more less hand to mouth existence.

Some examples of this have occurred in various districts following on the bombing of towns a year ago, when certain kinema owning companies found themselves unable to carry on through a difficult period mainly because their resources were depleted through paying out dividends instead of maintaining a sufficient reserve.

Mr. Snape's argument on war risks is not easy to follow. Particularly if we assume that he would provide for all other classes of insurance being charged against revenue, but that war risk insurance should be capitalised. He does not, as a kinema director, agree with charging war damage against revenue. Would he think this if a kinema were razed to the ground? Would he then treat this as an asset and write off insurance over ten or twenty years as he suggests.

With regard to his suggestion that directors are deferring payment of ordinary dividends in order to avoid paying too much supertax, I would mention that this has been guarded against in tax legislation, especially in the 1922 and 1927 Finance Acts.

In his closing paragraph Mr. Snape asks how can shareholders invest in War Loans and Warship Weeks if they do not receive dividends. I would reply that there is nothing to stop the company investing its reserve in War Loan.

ACCOUNTANT.

WASTE PAPER COLLECTION

C.E.A. Aid

In regard to the collection of waste paper the Head Office of the General Council has joined with some other firms in Wardour Street in agreeing to the collection of their waste paper, the proceeds from which will be donated to the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund.

If it is found that a scheme of collection can be worked out for any provincial centres the branches will be approached in the hope that they too will consider favourably that the proceeds from any waste paper should go to the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund.

Requests have accordingly been sent to all branch secretaries to have the matter brought before members at their next meeting, and already replies are coming in, expressing the wish to co-operate. There is no doubt the possibility of helping the C.T.B.F. is a strong incentive.

Our own inquiries have elicited the news that Phillips, Mills, who have made arrangements to collect in the London area, can put provincial kinemas and renting houses in touch with local agents able to make similar collections with the ensuing advantage to the Trade charitable effort.

If there is any misunderstanding or difficulty we shall be glad to receive intimations, or inquirers could write either to the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund, 52, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.1, or to the Wastepaper Recovery Association, Bouverie House, 154, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

Do not forget, first, suggestions for improving the yield of waste paper will be very gratefully acknowledged, and secondly, this recovery of waste is a campaign which must never relax.

THE C.T.B F. CHEQUE FROM BIRMINGHAM

A news item appearing in our last week's issue was misread in the office and given a heading which may have led to misunderstanding. To make it clear we have been in communication with R. C. Bromhead (chairman of the C.T.B.F. Board of Management), and he states that the question of the Birmingham area and Cinema Day had been under discussion between the officers of the Birmingham Fund and himself for some time.

When the matter finally came up for decision before the C.T.B.F. Board it was resolved to write to the Birmingham Fund thanking them for their contribution, and this has been done.

The latest action pictures from the Libyan Front feature this week's British Movietone News. These include scenes of Rommel's battered army on the run. Other important news shows large reinforcements of Empire troops arriving in Hong Kong and spectacular pictures of desert paratroops in training.

LORD KINDERSLEY ON KINEMA HELP

MEMBERS of the General Purposes Committee were invited by Lord Kindersley, the inspiration of the National War Savings movement, to the Connaught Rooms last week with the object of effecting the closest possible co-operation in publicising the national effort.

Lord Kindersley expressed his gratitude to the Trade for the support given to the movement throughout the country. He said that in making propaganda films he had come to recognise that unless they could serve up something more than direct propaganda the frequent demands on the Trade would not be reasonable.

For the most part, he explained, they were distributed on the departmental system, which meant that the turn of the War Savings movement came round five or six times a year.

If what had been produced did not reach the standard exhibitors demanded, he hoped they would say so. The movement had had an enormous appeal throughout the country—he estimated that there were 500,000 voluntary workers for it, about 250,000 savings groups and a membership of 15 millions.

But his task was one which grew in difficulty as it grew in importance, and it must be recognised as the great bulwark against inflation.

The Hard Core

However, there remained a hard core of the population who simply did not care what the nation's needs were. And one of the best channels to reach these people and convince them of the urgency of her need to-day was the great kinema industry, which could help as no other agency could.

President on Public Reactions

Lieut.-Col. Lewis, President of the C.E.A., after paying a compliment to the leader of a great and important movement, said it was realised that his efforts were a powerful agency for the defeat of or at least the delaying of, inflation. In helping him we were helping ourselves.

He wished to point out that the public, when it was viewing a Government film, demanded 95 per cent. entertainment and 5 per cent. propaganda. It might facilitate the exhibitor's desire to help if some agreement were made with the Ministry of Information, so that they could all know the extent of the official ideas about the exhibition of short films—no matter how short or how good. This was because of the many demands upon screen time.

Concluding, the President said there was no defeating a State which had men of the standard of Lord Kindersley to lead it, and emphasised his desire to see him forming a liaison with the M. of I.

One Source for Films

Comdr. A. W. Jarratt said it was obviously the duty of the Industry to help the Government. But there was a danger that propaganda might become chaotic unless the Government set up one organisation to deal with propaganda in the way in which it ought to be done. The department in question had had an enormous amount of criticism.

He felt that the War Savings Committee's work would be halved if all propaganda could be arranged to come from one department. "Our job," he continued, "is to show what is given to us. Who are we to say that this week it is right to put in a film about War Savings and wrong to put on one dealing with another branch of the national effort? It is not fair to put the responsibility on us.

"I am delighted to know that you are pleased with what the Industry is doing, but I do feel that our Government propagandists should put their own house in order."

NEXT YEAR'S BRITISH PRODUCTIONS

76 Planned, but——

Seventy-six subjects appear on a schedule prepared by the British Film Producers' Association of films planned to be made in British studios during the first nine months of 1942.

Some of these will not be proceeded with unless the producers can obtain temporary release from the Forces of directors or actors who have been selected to interpret various rôles.

Those whom it is sought to secure and who are at present serving include R. Richardson, G. Middleton, F. Lawton, R. Murdoch, D. Niven, L. Olivier, B. Radford, D. Farr, and directors T. Young, H. Mason and Marcel Varnel. Release is also sought for Geoffrey Carter (publicity manager for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer).

Some of the subjects above mentioned depend upon studio space being available.

As stated in another column, an appeal is to be made of personnel in the Forces to enable the pictures to be produced. Ralph Richardson has already been granted special leave to play his rôle in "The Day Will Dawn."

London Hours to Continue

The L.C.C. has decided that Sunday kinema hours in London in January shall remain as at present. The hours will be 3 to 8.30 p.m. generally and from 2.30 to 8 p.m. for kinemas in the West End. Sunday hours for later months will be considered later.

London Trade Show Diary

OFFERINGS TO BE SCREENED BETWEEN THURS., DEC. 18 AND WED., DEC. 24

Thursday

The Smiling Ghost (*Warner*)

Cambridge Theatre. **11 a.m.**

Cast: Wayne Morris, Brenda Marshall, Alexis Smith, Alan Hale, Lee Patrick, David Bruce. **Director:** Lewis Seiler.

Mystery film that packs both suspense and laughs from start to finish. Alexis Smith plays the rôle of a girl whom the newspapers have branded the "kiss of death girl," because of the terrible fate that has met all of her suitors but one. And he is in an iron lung. Her grandmother, played by Helen Westley, is anxious to dispel the jinx surrounding her grand-daughter and hires Wayne Morris, as a college graduate in low funds, to be Alexis' suitor.

On arriving at Alexis' home he meets a newspaper girl, played by Brenda Marshall, and they get along very well. Too well, in fact, to please Alexis. Wayne has brought along his right-hand man, played by comedian Willie Best.

Brenda and Wayne decide to find out what all these mysterious goings on are, and their solution will prove a surprise even to the most ardent arm-chair sleuth.

The Sea Wolf (*Warner*)

Cambridge Theatre. **2.30 p.m.**

Cast: Edward G. Robinson, Ida Lupino, John Garfield, Alexander Knox, Gene Lockhart, Harry Fitzgerald. **Director:** Michael Curtiz.

Edward G. Robinson has the rôle of Jack London's best-known fiction character, Wolf Larsen, captain of *The Ghost*, hell-ship of the whaling days. Larsen rules the lives (and often the deaths) of the men in his shanghaied crew. Into this environment comes a frightened girl fleeing from prison, and a sensitive young author, picked up from the wreck of a San Francisco ferry. The impact of this pair upon the oddly assorted crew of *The Ghost* makes a dramatic and memorable story, which finds its perfect medium in film.

A highly unusual love story is woven through the powerful action, with Ida Lupino and John Garfield as the sweethearts. Alexander Knox, a promising screen newcomer, plays the rôle of the young author, and Barry Fitzgerald, one of the screen's most brilliant character actors, plays "Cookie," a snivelling coward, who fawningly reports to Larsen everything that goes on among the other members of the crew.

James Stephenson plays leading rôle of a young doctor who discovers a new method for curing disordered minds. Geraldine Fitzgerald is cast opposite Stephenson as his assistant and the girl who teaches him the important lesson in humanity which enables him to complete his great work.

Donald Crisp has a fine rôle as an eccentric old bachelor doctor who befriends the two young doctors. Barbara O'Neil is splendidly cast as the neurotic woman whose twisted mind brings tragedy to all whose lives touch hers.

Friday

Thieves Fall Out (*Warner*)

Studio One. **11 a.m.**

Cast: Eddie Albert, Joan Leslie, Jane Darwell, Alan Hale, John Litel. **Director:** Ray Enright.

The tale's appeal revolves around earnest young Eddie Albert, who wants to marry Joan Leslie. These two young people's rôles are made to order for their special, zestful personalities.

Eddie's father asks Joan's father for a rise so that he can marry Joan, but it's no go, and he's especially worried since there's another suitor after Joan.

It's Grandma, played by Jane Darwell, who takes affairs into her own hands. She advances a wad of money, saved to buy the town's third mattress-spring company, together with a legacy of Eddie's as security. Gangsters get hold of the pertinent policy and then the fun really starts.

Shining Victory (*Warner*)

Cambridge Theatre. **2.30 p.m.**

Cast: James Stephenson, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Donald Crisp, Barbara O'Neil, Montagu Love, Bruce Lester, Frank Reicher, George P. Huntley, Jun., Richard Ainley. **Director:** Irving Rapper.

"Shining Victory" is a tightly-knit drama dealing with the innermost thoughts of women's minds, as divulged by modern psychiatric methods. A. J. Cronin's stirring story is thoroughly entertaining, with a dramatic and unusual romance woven through it.

Monday

Million Dollar Baby (*Warner*)

Cambridge Theatre. **2.30 p.m.**

Cast: Priscilla Lane, Jeffrey Lynn, Ronald Reagan, May Robson, Lee Patrick, Helen Westley, George Barbier, Walter Catlett. **Director:** Curtis Bernhardt.

Delightful comedy dealing with the adventures of a shopgirl who inherits a million dollars. Pretty Priscilla Lane is, of course, the "Million Dollar Baby," and Jeffrey Lynn is the young lawyer who first brings her news of her inheritance, then stays to sue for her hand. Ronald Reagan is cast as the cynical young composer who is in love with Priscilla, too, but prejudiced against her money. Veteran May Robson plays the eccentric, wealthy old woman who gives Priscilla the million dollars for reasons of her own.

Leonard Spigelgass has written a sparkling story, full of bright situations and irresistibly human touches. Casey Robinson, Richard Macaulay and Jerry Wald adapted the story for the screen, with dialogue that fairly crackles with wit.

The Chocolate Soldier (*M-G-M*)

Own Theatre. **11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.**

Cast: Nelson Eddy, Risë Stevens, Nigel Bruce, Florence Bates, Dorothy Gilmore, Nydia Westman, Max Barwyn and Charles Judels. **Director:** Roy Del Ruth.

Set in colourful Vienna in the days before the Anschluss was dreamed of, "The Chocolate Soldier" tells the story of the loves and jealousies of a stage-renowned husband and wife, the parts taken by the stars, Nelson Eddy and Risë Stevens.

Thrown into a state of doubt and fear by his wife's light-hearted conduct, Eddy adopts a disguise, and in the rôle of a great Cossack singer makes violent love to her in order to test her fidelity. Miss Stevens is not deceived by this masquerade, but cleverly sustains the deception and leads him a pretty dance to the accompaniment of many hilarious situations. Eddy's Cossack rôle gives opportunity for a display of vocal versatility in which he reveals his possession of a fine bass voice in addition to his well-known baritone. During this sequence he is heard in a magnificent rendering of Moussorgsky's "Song of the Flea," while Miss Stevens' singing of the time-honoured "My Hero," from the original Strauss operetta, and famous operatic arias displays her as a diva of the first magnitude.

Tuesday

All American Co-ed (*United Artists*)

London Pavilion. **2.30 p.m.**

Cast: Frances Langford, Esther Dale, Noah Beery, Jun., Marjorie Woodworth, Johnny Downs and Harry Langdon. **Joint Producers and Directors:** Leroy Prinz and Hal Roach, Jun.

Based on a popular story, the picture unwinds its sprightly action in a girls' horticultural school, which suddenly undertakes a publicity drive in an effort to outdo its neighbouring Quinceton College, which features an annual quadrangle revue.

In order to spike the plans of the co-eds, Quinceton sends some of its huskies to the rival camp and the high jinks begin. During the colourful musical sequences in the film, the hit tunes, "I'm a Chap with a Chip on My Shoulder," "Up at the Crack of Dawn," "The Farmer's Daughter" and "Out of the Silence" are introduced. Also featured in the film is the famous American vocal trio consisting of Mickey, Betty and Martha Tanner.

John Garfield and Ida Lupino in SEA WOLF, the Warner film which stars Edward G. Robinson

Nigel Bruce, Rise Stevens and Nelson Eddy in CHOCOLATE SOLDIER (M-G-M)

The Shadow of the Thin Man (*M-G-M*)

Private Theatre. **11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.**

Cast: William Powell, Myrna Loy, Barry Nelson, Dorna Reed, Alan Baxter, Louise Beavers. **Director:** W. S. Van Dyke II.

It's a treat any time this perfect film team gets together, but particularly so in a "Thin Man" story, balancing the hilarious, slap-happy domestic life of the Charles family with a fascinating murder mystery. This time, Detective Charles faces one of his most difficult sleuthing problems, dealing with no fewer than three corpses. Nora, as usual, tries to be the helpful little woman and, as usual, adds only to Nick's troubles in a score of dangerously amusing situations. Nicky, now walking and talking, proves to be a young tyrant, and Asta has added a score of new tricks to those which have convulsed audiences in the past.

"ICE-CAPADES" AT TWICKENHAM

Ice-rink Gymkhana for Br. Lion Super

Current release of Republic's spectacular "Ice-Capades" (British Lion) offers unusual opportunities for exploitation by the live showman-manager, and Robert Burns, manager of the Regal, Twickenham, certainly seized his chances with a smart publicity campaign.

Outstanding event of his efforts was an "'Ice-Capades' Gymkhana," held at the "Sportsdrome," the famous Richmond Ice Rink. An entire evening devoted to this much-publicised tie-up attracted a record attendance. Competitions for both sexes were arranged, and the resultant thrills vied with those with which the film is so prolific. Unusual contests were barrel-jumping competitions—the winner jumped five barrels and three chairs—and the sleigh race (girls on sleighs being pushed around the rink by men). In between events the manager of the rink announced *via* the loudspeakers the salient merits of the film "Ice-Capades," with full details of its playdate at the Regal. He pointed out that Phil Taylor, one-time professional at the Richmond Rink, Megan Taylor and Red McCarthy, all of whom used to give exhibitions there, were prominent in the film, and stressed that they must not miss seeing "Ice-Capades" for the greatest display of skating artistry yet presented on the screen.

Given a free hand with regard to publicity in and around the Sportsdrome, Mr. Burns had an outstanding show, comprising stills, gaily coloured arts, all kinds of skating equipment, and to crown this magnificent display an exhibition of the many valuable cups won at the rink by famous skaters of British and world fame.

Advance theatre publicity on "Ice-Capades" included a huge display of skating equipment, large cut-outs of striking skating poses by the stars of the film, a plentiful array of stills and a 30-ft. linen banner stretched right across the front of the house.

AN EXPERT ON PRODUCTION

Vidor Traces Film Progress

TWENTY-ONE years in the motion picture Industry comes to life in King Vidor's forthcoming book on screen production.

The director, who started life as a newsreel cameraman, then jumped to scenario writing, and into directing with the unforgettable "Big Parade," is putting his experiences on paper. In reality, he is doing more than that. Not only the written word but pictures from films he has directed tell the mechanics and romance of motion picture production.

In this cavalcade of screen technique, Vidor traces the development of camera lensing, lighting, photography equipment, angles, direction, through the stills which he has kept from his first picture, "Sky Pilot," made in 1920, including his latest "H. M. Pulham, Esq.," new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, in which he attempts the revolutionary idea of a production without a studied close-up. Through such films as "Peg o' My Heart," "Big Parade," "The Crowd," "Hallelujah," "Street Scene," "The Champ," "Stella Dallas," "The Citadel," "North-West Passage," photographed in Technicolor, screen progress is unfolded step by step.

A Fling for Youth

Youngsters will figure predominantly in "Born to Sing," in the first sequence of which Ray McDonald, Virginia Weidler, Leo Gorcey and other talented adolescents took part in scenes set in a New York tenement and a shop.

A complete child orchestra has been assembled for the musical part of the picture, also large chorus and dancing ensemble.

Action will also include sequences in theatres, a lavish musical show presented by the youngsters, and dancing spectacles. Douglas McPhail will sing "Ballad for Americans," by John Latouche and Earl Robinson, in a climatic spectacle. Other hit numbers in the production are "Two a.m.," by Earl Brent; "I'll Love Ya," by Brent and Lennie Hayton, to be sung by Virginia Weidler; "Here I am Eight Years Old," a routine song for Beverly Hudson; and "Carmen La Zonga Brown," to be sung by Miss Weidler.

Players include Rags Ragland, Larry Nunn, Henry O'Neill, Douglas McPhail, Richard Hall, Beverly Hudson, Maria Flynn and Darla Hood. Edward Ludwig is directing.

"Tulip-time"

Youth will also have its fling in "Tulip-time in Michigan," in which seven young actresses, including Kathryn Grayson, Ann Rutherford, Virginia Grey, Jackie Horner and others being groomed for stardom at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will be featured.

The story deals with the fortunes of a Dutch tulip grower and his seven daughters. The picture will be an early production by Joseph Pasternak.

It will be laid amid the Michigan Tulip Festival, an annual celebration in one of the few districts outside of Holland where tulip culture is carried on as an industry.

A scene from LOUISIANA PURCHASE, starring Bob Hope, Zorina and Victor Moore, a forthcoming Paramount picture

Brighton Steps up its Sunday Charity Demand

SUBTLE METHOD OF SEEKING DETAILS OF KINEMA REVENUE

CONSIDERABLE indignation and surprise has been occasioned by a recommendation which goes before the Brighton Town Council at their resumed meeting to-day (Thursday) that the annual contribution to charity of the Brighton kinemas under the Sunday Entertainments Act shall be increased from £1,000 to £1,500 with a view to forcing exhibitors to produce accounts of their Sunday trading.

Ald. Milner Black, reading the committee's proceedings, recalled that ever since the passing of the Act, the annual contribution of the kinemas had been fixed at £1,000 by amicable settlement. After two years the proprietors applied for a reduction, but they had never produced any figures to show that the committee's estimate was unreasonable.

The committee had from time to time suggested that the proprietors should give them figures of their profits which, declared the Alderman, must be very considerable from the privilege of being able to give free performances on Sunday. In order to obtain this information the committee now proposed to raise the amount to £1,500.

"When the Income Tax payer declines to give figures to the authorities," added Ald. Black, "it is in their power to fix a figure. If the proprietors demur to this suggestion, the next stage is for them to produce figures to show that £1,000 is a very fair compromised figure."

The Extortionists

At this stage the meeting was adjourned until to-day (Thursday), but in the meantime there has been some considerable criticism of this further attempt to one section of the entertainment industry which is already bearing taxation at the highest scale and is the first to whom the authorities turn for help whenever a special national or charitable effort is being made.

Kinemas Only Pay

This move has always been a particular grievance to Brighton exhibitors because not only are other forms of entertainment exempt, but for many years before the passing of the Sunday Entertainments Act, they had enjoyed Sunday opening free and unfettered as a recognised amenity of a progressive seaside resort.

Impossible, Anyway

Among those who have taken up the cudgels is DAN BENJAMIN, one of the Sussex delegates to the General Council, who pointed out that kinemas are open on 365 days of the year and that it is an impossible task to select one day per week and give correct figures of profit and loss for that particular day, trading being on a seven-day basis and weekly overheads being charged on a seven-day basis.

Dan's Argument

"If it is the purpose of the committee to extract an extra £500 per year from the kinemas for the privilege of opening on Sunday," says Mr. Benjamin, "surely it is as unreasonable as a request for the submission of the accounts. The measure of any temporary success at the box-office in some districts is fixed by super-tax, excess profits tax and income tax at 10s. in the £, and it must also be remembered that on the South and East coasts huge losses were incurred last year and this still applies in many places."

Compulsory Allocations

Mr. Benjamin added that if kinema proprietors felt they wish to donate any further amounts to charities they should be allowed to enjoy the same privilege as any other business of being able to allocate these amounts as they deem fit and not by compulsion or the operation of an Act of Parliament which singles out one particular section of the vast entertainmet industry.

From last year's contribution of the kinmas in respect of Sunday opening, after deducting the prescribed £50 for Cinematograph funds, the Council had allocated 50 per cent. of the remaining £950 for the housing of aged poor people, 20 per cent, to local hospitals and medical institutions and 5 per cent to the C.T.B.F.

EXHIBITORS REJECT S.O. EFFORT

Beverley to Take No Action

At the monthly meeting of Beverley Town Council, Coun. D. R. Simpson moved "That the Council be recommended to submit a Draft Order for the Sunday opening of kinemas."

He said that although the majority of the members of the committee were strongly opposed to the opening of kinemas for members of H.M. Forces, he had hoped that they had since thought about it more fully. He urged that we did things in war time which we probably would not do in peace time.

Coun. A. Graham said he had been asked by one of the kinema proprietors in Beverley not to press the application.

The Mayor pointed out that the Town Clerk had communicated with the kinema proprietors, and two out of three had replied that they did not desire an application for Sunday opening to be made.

The motion was lost, only a few votes being lodged in its favour.

SOUTH WALES MEMBERS APPROVE QUOTA DECISION

Support for Savings Appeal

A. B. WATTS'S CANDIDATURE

THERE was little of outstanding importance down for discussion at the monthly meeting of the South Wales and Mon. branch on Friday. In the unavoidable absence of the chairman, F. Cam, W. Lewis Smith (Mountain Ash) presided.

Pilot-Officer Peter Norman-Wright (vice-chairman) looked in and received a warm welcome, but, unfortunately, he was unable to remain throughout the meeting.

A report of the proceedings at the last General Council meeting was given by R. Dooner (Maesteg). Dealing with the report of the General Purposes Committee, he referred to the future position of the film quota, and mentioned that a new Order had been tabled under the Act whereby the exhibitor's quota for the year commencing October 1, 1942, will be reduced to 15 per cent.

The current quota year was not affected, remaining at 17½ per cent. The reduction would not come into effect until the next quota year, while the quota for shorts commencing on October 1, 1942, would be 12½ per cent. The matter caused very little discussion by the council and seemed to be generally approved.

Kindersley's Appeal

In connection with the National Savings Campaign, Lord Kindersley, chairman of the committee, had made an appeal to the Association for the purpose of getting a seven minutes' film called "Seaman Frank" screened. All the members of the General Purposes Committee were invited to see it and had reported it to be an exceptional one.

There was a suggestion that, in view of the urgency of assisting the National Savings Campaign, it was their duty to do all they could in that direction. It was thought advisable to ask the M. of I. to withdraw their film and that "Seaman Frank" should be substituted. They were going to appeal to all kinemas to show the film if only for three days.

The report was accepted.

Watts for V.-P.

The question of submitting the name of Arthur B. Watts for the vice-presidency of the Association again came up on a motion by W. BERRIMAN (Pontypridd) that they proceed to send Mr. Watts's name forward at once.

After hearing a statement from Mr. Watts, the motion was carried unanimously, FRED PHILLIPS (Brynmawr) having moved it in the absence of W. Berriman, who was unwell, R. DOONER seconding.

Paper Shortage

On the question of posters, the Secretary, W. J. FOOKS, said that having received a letter from a member who wished to know the exact position, he wrote to the General Secretary and had received the following reply:—

> It is true that the prohibition against the exhibition of more than ten posters has been suspended until February 1 in the case of entertainment consisting wholly or mainly of a stage play or a musical entertainment to be given at any theatre or hall which is normally used for such plays or entertainment.

"These are the actual words used, and as you will see, do not apply to kinemas," said Mr. Fooks.

Ready for the Annual Meeting

Consideration was given to arrangements for the annual general meeting of the branch, which will be held on January 16.

The SECRETARY pointed out that it was usual to notify members with regard to nominations for various offices somewhere about December 16 and ask for forms to be returned not later than December 30.

The meeting decided that this course should again be adopted.

Some Alterations

The following changes in representation were announced:—

Abergorky Workmen's Hall—R. J. Lewis manager in place of W. E. Willis; Plaza, Tonypandy, R. J. Lewis in place of B. Jenkins; Grand, Pentre, C. Potter for M. Bradford; Coliseum, Cantow, A. Minton for M. J. Barrett; Palace, Cwmaman, J. P. Jones for B. Davies; and Globe, Penylan, Cardiff, A. Williams for F. Ridge.

AMAZING DISNEY STATISTICS

Augury of Success for "Dumbo"

The amazing success of Walt Disney in recent years is evidenced by a survey of the British market conducted by RKO-Radio on the eve of the presentation of "Dumbo" at the New Gallery.

Disney's first full-length feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," grossed a new world record box-office figure for any motion picture. It was finally seen in Great Britain by over 15,000,000 people—a third of the country's population.

"Pinocchio," the second Disney feature, proved almost as successful as its predecessor. After a fine run at the New Gallery, this was released at the time of the first intensive raids. Despite this obvious handicap the firm proved to be one of the greatest money-spinners ever released.

After a run of six months on its pre-release at the New Gallery "Fantasia" has been shown with outstanding success in all the main provincial centres. RKO-Radio are now booking the film to kinemas in all parts of the country.

The most recent Disney release, "The Reluctant Dragon," is currently proving a worthy successor to the three previous full-length features.

"Dumbo" Sweeps U.S.

An inkling of the probable success of "Dumbo" in this country is afforded by the terrific reception given the film on its Trade screening at the Cambridge yesterday. Recent news from America states that "Dumbo," after a grand and enthusiastic Press acclamation, is now in its eighth New York week, establishing high box-office grosses.

Meanwhile, Disney's short product continues to receive full support from the British market. It is revealed that to-day Disney's featurettes are being shown in more kinemas than ever before with audience reaction as enthusiastic as ever.

News from 20th-Fox

CLAUDETTE COLBERT'S NEW FILM

RECENTLY signed by 20th Century-Fox, Brian Foy has been assigned four specials.

He will first tackle "Over the Burma Road," the script for which Steve Fisher and Jack Andrews are now writing.

Upon completion of this production, Foy will produce the Technicolor "Sioux City." His third undertaking will be "Channel Float No. 18," which will co-star Maureen O'Hara and John Sutton. The fourth Foy production is tentatively titled "The Tombs," a story of the famous New York prison.

Claudette Colbert Starring

In "Remember the Day," now in production at Movietone City, Claudette Colbert has John Payne in the male lead, with Douglas Croft, a 12-year-old boy, in the rôle of Dewey Robert. Ann Todd, Billy Dawson, Francis Pierlot and William Henderson heading a huge supporting cast.

It is said that "Remember the Day" will have the appeal of "Smilin Through," telling the story of a small town teacher who is secretly in love with one of her students, who eventually stands for election for the Presidency. It is being directed by Henry King.

Gene Tierney's Contract

Gene Tierney, who has been greatly in demand since her grand performance in the recently completed "Belle Starr," has now been given one of the two leading feminine rôles in "Son of Fury," the picturisation of Edison Marshall's novel that is in production under director John Cromwell at Movietone City.

Darryl Zanuck, production chief at 20th-Fox, announces that she has been signed to what is characterised as a "non-stop contract," carrying a provision that she will eventually be starred.

"Son of Fury" will be a Zanuck super-special, starring Tyrone Power as Benjamin Blake. The cast assembled for this vehicle is unquestionably one of the greatest to appear in a single picture undertaken by 20th-Fox. In addition to Tyrone Power and Gene Tierney, the cast also includes George Sanders, Virginia Gilmore, Elsa Lancaster, Roddy McDowall, John Carradine, Dudley Digges, Kay Johnson, Harry Davenport, Halliwell Hobbes and many others.

HOLLYWOOD WILL DELIVER THE FILMS

Continued from page 3.

to military call-up it was quite likely that some system by which the studios would pool their resources might be arranged, but there was no reason to anticipate a serious shortage of product.

Certainly not, he added, enough to bring about a general acceptance of the single feature programme, for which the exhibitor had no liking. One way, suggested Mr. Eckman, in which a diminution of output could be countered, if it occurred, would be by giving the features longer runs. This seemed to be the most logical way of dealing with the position when it arose.

A Smile from Warners

When Max Milder, of Warner Bros., was approached, he pulled from his pocket a cable which had just arrived unexpectedly from Jack L. Warner and read (with a broad smile on his face) "Still in business and expect to remain in business."

Paramount Prepared

A message from the Paramount Studios states that Hollywood is completely prepared. There is no probable diminution in the number of films to be made. Their subject matter, however, will be aimed primarily at laughter and gaiety. Technical workers will be replaced by older men and women, and the studios are fully prepared to cope with blitz conditions.

No plans are being made for producing films with war themes other than those scheduled. The studios, however, have placed all facilities at the disposal of the Government.

No Curtailment

Neither will 20th Century-Fox curtail production, which is regarded by the U.S. Government as a vital contribution to the maintenance of national morale.

Will Deliver the Goods

An official in the London office of Universal states that the situation has already been prepared for, and there appears little likelihood of any interference with the 1942 programme already scheduled. Further than that it was impossible to anticipate.

Deliveries as Usual

Asked as to Republic's prospects, S. W. Smith, whose bombs or no bombs British Lion will carry on statement gave such a fine lead to the Industry in the early stages of the war, was equally forthright on this occasion. Here's Republic's answer to any idea of restricted production in my last cable from Herbert J. Yates. "Putting our budget figure for 1942 up another $5,000,000 we shall deliver on schedule as usual."

Republic had previously announced an appropriation figure for the new season of over five times greater than that of three years ago and a programme headed by six prestige de-luxe productions.

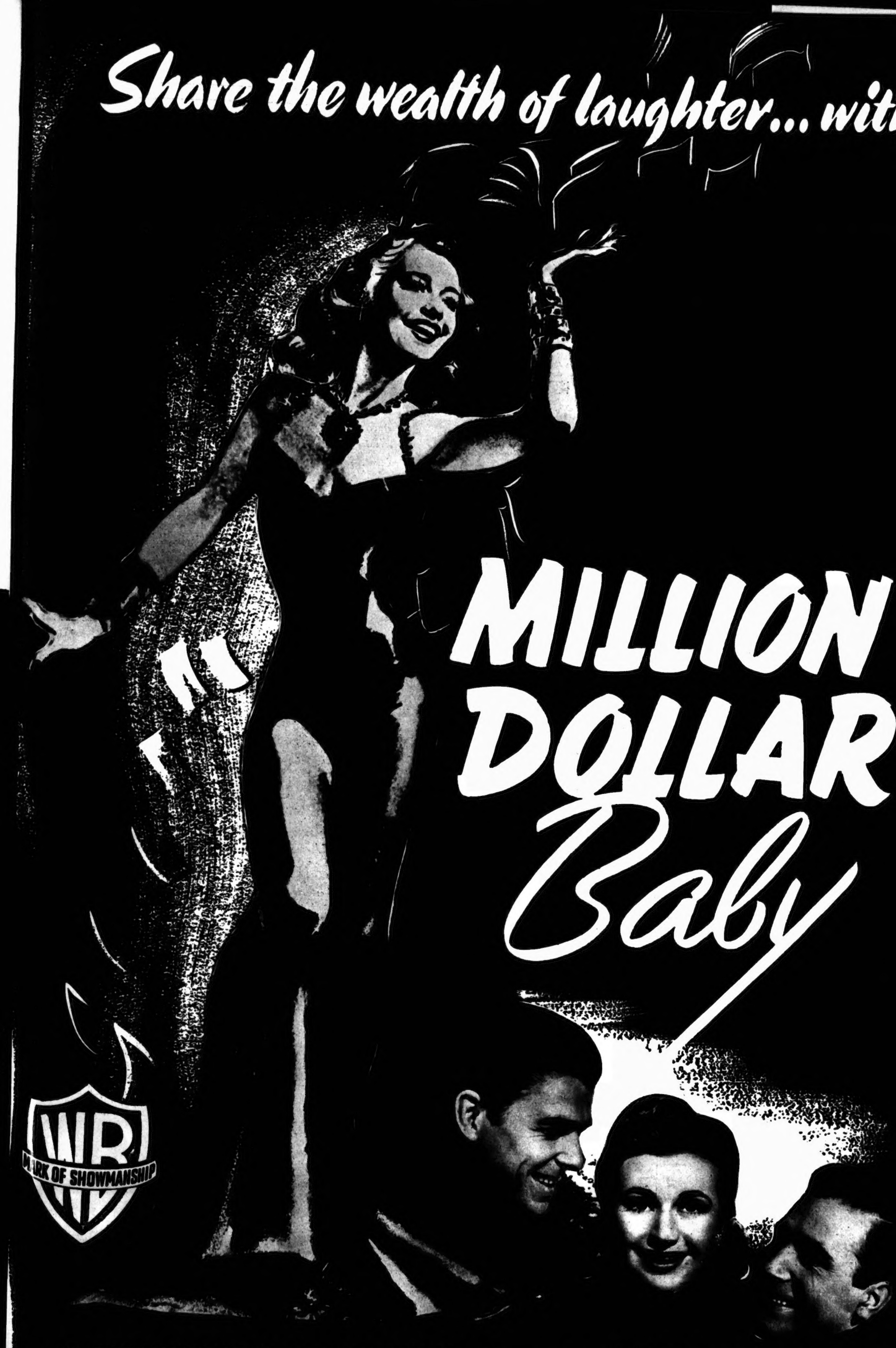
Better Films

Although the demands of the Services and the patriotic inclinations of the stars and technicians will doubtless affect Hollywood production, taken by and large there appears no reason to doubt these reassuring messages. There is, however, the probability that even should production be curtailed the loss of quantity is likely to be more than offset by the increase in quality, more particularly as regards the product of the independent companies. This result of the diminution of production activity has been observed in Great Britain, where the fewer pictures made during the war have been generally of a considerable higher technical quality.

The first picture to lay bare a woman's mind!
From a play by
A. J. CRONIN
JAMES
GERALDINE
DONALD CRISP • BARBARA O'NEIL
WB
Trade Show
CAMBRIDGE THEATRE
FRI. DEC. 19TH AT 2·30

Share the wealth of laughter... with

MILLION DOLLAR Baby



WB MARK OF SHOWMANSHIP

with **MAY ROBSON • LEE PATRICK** • *Directed by* **CURTIS BERNHARDT**

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSS VALVE SITUATION

Provision of Efficient Substitutes Considered

A COMPREHENSIVE report on the valve situation was presented to the General Council at its last meeting. It revealed that detailed conversations had taken place between the C.E.A. Technical Committee and the Government department concerned.

The conclusions arrived at by the Committee, from an analysis of the situation and of the opinions obtained from the various interviews and consultations, are that it would appear that no relief from the present situation can be expected unless orders are placed for one or other of the alternatives suggested. For those members whose rectifying valves have run their practical life the situation is desperate. There is no further action that can be taken as all the avenues have been thoroughly explored.

It appears there are some 250 situations involved. Delivery of all metal or mercury pool rectifier is estimated at 12/18 weeks from date of order and release of essential materials.

The committee reported that since the last Council meeting inquiries had been made in the following directions:—

(*a*) The Inter-Service Valve Production Committee of the Ministry of Aircraft Production (which is the Government Department controlling all thermionic valves).

(*b*) The British Radio Valve Manufacturers' Association.

(*c*) Individual manufacturing firms.

(*d*) The Kinematograph Manufacturers' Association.

In regard to (*a*), we pointed out in our communication that assertions had been made implying that manufacturers were finding themselves unable to produce certain types of valves in consequence of certain raw materials being refused to them by the Government controls concerned. Also, that the requisitioning by Government Departments was absorbing the whole of the available product, which meant that the requirements of exhibitors, in spite of priority given by the Board of Trade, were not being met. The reply of the above-mentioned committee was that in view of the priority granted by the Board of Trade for the valves needed to meet our members' requirements it was not thought that serious difficulties would arise, because the general position was improving, although it is possible that from time to time the Services' claims for radio valves would have to take precedence over civilian requirements.

Current and Sound

In regard to (*b*), we furnished this Association with a full list of the estimated requirements of our members in respect of the various types of valves necessary for replacements in kinemas, both for current rectification and sound amplification. We again pointed out that individual members of our association asserted that from certain information received some manufacturers were finding themselves in a difficult position and unable to produce certain types of valves, in consequence of essential raw materials being refused to them by the Government controls concerned. Also, that owing to the current rectification valves manufactured by Philips Industrial Company being unobtainable certain members were being forced to instal other types of rectifying apparatus. We asked that a survey of the whole situation should be made from inquiries among the members of their association in order that we should be presented with a clear picture of the situation for the information of our members. Further, that if by some internal arrangement the manufacture of suitable substitute rectifying valves in place of those made by Philips could be brought about it would be of incalculable value.

On page 31 appear comments on the valve situation together with suggestions for overcoming difficulties in emergencies.

To this request, after some correspondence, we have received a definite promise that an analysis of the supply position will be made with a view to doing all that is possible to meet our members' requirements.

Alternative Supplies

In regard to (*c*) and in accordance with suggestions made by members of the General Council, an inquiry was addressed to individual firms whom it was thought could possibly supply from existing models or, alternatively, embark upon the production of new types in order to meet the shortage. No success at all was achieved as it transpired that only two firms made anything of an equivalent character.

One was the Ediswan Electric Co., who, it appeared, ceased manufacturing suitable types early in the year owing, it is asserted, to lack of demand. Another was the British Thomson-Houston Co., whose valves would not be suitable for use in rectifying apparatus designed for use with Philips valves unless considerable modification was effected, which could not be undertaken owing to the lack of the necessary skilled labour.

Incidentally, in the course of this particular inquiry, it transpired that the B.D.12 valve users would also find a shortage in the near future as the whole product of this particular type of valve was being requisitioned for Government purposes.

No Reliance on Promises

In regard to Philips Industrial, a further communication was received to the effect that they still had every hope of being able to deliver 1,738 valves during January next, and that providing nothing unforeseen occurred, the production of 1,729 and 1,749 valves would follow. That was on November 20. Since then various communications have been received both by C.E.A., its members, and other interested parties in the Trade, from the firm. These have been of a contradictory character and have raised very grave doubts that any delivery of the three principal rectifying valves can be expected for some time to come.

The latest information received to-day (December 8) indicates that the whole product of their factory is being absorbed by Government requirements, and in the opinion of this department no reliance can be placed upon the promises given that these essential valves will be forthcoming by the dates originally named.

Rectifier Alternatives

In regard to (*d*), the Kinematograph Manufacturers' Association are as seriously concerned in the problem as are exhibitors. They have appointed a special committee, which has had numerous meetings and which has pursued investigations on much the same lines as has this Department. These have culminated in a joint meeting, when, after a long discussion, and analysis of the whole situation, it was agreed that the only solution for exhibitors faced with a possible failure of their existing hot cathode rectifiers fitted with Philips valves was to instal an efficient substitute. There are three possibilities.

(1) An all-metal rectifier. (2) A mercury pool rectifier. (3) A.C. arcs.

In the case of the first two, assurances are forthcoming that manufacture is possible providing the release of certain essential materials can be obtained. In order to get this release it is thought a joint application should be made by the C.E.A. and the K.M.A. to the Board of Trade, pointing out the position in which many kinemas are being placed and the urgent necessity for facilities being given for the manufacture of suitable substitute apparatus.

If the necessary permission can be obtained, the cost per theatre for the new apparatus and its installation will be in the neighbourhood of two hundred to three hundred pounds. Further action by participation in approach to the Board of Trade in order to acquire this release of materials is, therefore, sought.

Equipment Conversion

In regard to the third alternative, *i.e.*, the A.C. arcs, these are, of course, limited in scope, and in the majority of cases will require new lamps which are either hand-fed or have motors giving a 50-50 feed, also the necessary inductors. We are informed that new motors to adopt existing lamps are unobtainable, therefore new hand-fed arcs would be necessary; further, that suitable mirrors are at the present moment unobtainable, but that the principal manufacturing firm has indicated its willingness to produce (which is again dependent upon Government permission); also, that there is difficulty in obtaining certain component parts of the inductors themselves; further, the possible cost for a pair of conversions would be in the neighbourhood of £130, therefore it does not appear that any great advantage would be derived from such a conversion, except in a few cases.

The report was received and adopted.

Mr. Cam, of the South Wales Branch, who spoke from technical experience, said that on reading the present report, he felt it covered all the ground and was very comprehensive.

The President (Lt.-Col. S. K. Lewis) assured Mr. Cam that his services would be utilised when the occasion arose.

Manufacturers Agree

A meeting of manufacturers and factors of rectifying equipment was held at C.E.A. headquarters on Friday, when it was resolved to act upon the lines of the C.E.A. report.

Clark Gable and Rosalind Russell are co-starred in THEY MET IN BOMBAY, forthcoming M-G-M picture

M. of I. Propaganda Films

"SEAMAN FRANK" RECOMMENDED

Co-ordination of Exhibition

THE first film to figure in the General Council report as having been received with applause is "Seaman Frank," a 7-minute Concanen production on behalf of War Savings propaganda.

In its report to the General Council the General Purposes Committee state: "This film was taken on the Clyde, features Frank Laskier and is extraordinarily vivid. It has only a brief propaganda reference at the conclusion to National War Savings Certificates. In the normal way this film would have come as a M. of I. short, but there is not a sufficiently early date available if it is not to lose its topicality.

"The film was shown to the General Purposes Committee, and is so good that it was greeted with applause, and every member was prepared to show it. The film will be made available immediately, and it is worth while for every member to show it. There is one point, however, to stress that this film is worth including in any programme on its own merits.

"If members accept the advice to show it, it should not interrupt our very cordial relations with the Ministry of Information and should be shown in addition to the M. of I. short."

Since the above discussion was reported the Kine. understands that the film has been acquired for M. of I. distribution

Presentation Problems

Reference was made to difficulties which exhibitors who have a twice weekly change are experiencing as to the showing of M. of I. shorts. The Ministry of Information has expressed the wish that, owing to the value of the publicity exhibitors will, in every case where it is possible, exhibit the films for six or seven days. If, however, it becomes impossible to do so in the situations where a twice-weekly change is made, the Ministry would be satisfied by the exhibition of the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with Sunday where Sunday opening is permitted.

M. of I. Co-ordination

In connection with various requests made to exhibitors in which the name of the Ministry of Information is used a number have been queried to the Ministry.

Accordingly, a formal request has been made to the Ministry that wherever services are asked from exhibitors they should be made through the Film Department of the Ministry of Information.

This will co-ordinate all these matters into one channel and save exhibitors being troubled with a number of requests to which the name of the Ministry of Information seems to be attached only to give them importance.

Marjorie Woodworth, Tom Brown, Zasu Pitts and Slim Summerville are featured in Hal Roach's NIAGARA FALLS, forthcoming United Artists presentation

NATIONAL SERVICE BILL AND EXHIBITORS

Fuller Outlines the Position

G.C. REPORT

IN a brief report, the General Secretary dealt with the man-power proposals contained in the National Service Bill. He pointed out to the General Council that one effect of the raising of the age limit to 51 years was to make reservations or deferment below the previous limit more difficult. "It does not seem," he concludes, "that any trade will be left with many employees under 30 years of age."

The principal changes contained in the National Service Bill are as follows:—

Upper age limit for men raised to 51. Above 40 will only be taken for static and sedentary duties.

The 18's are now being called up and posting to the Forces at the age of 18½ is operative.

Women

Women will be registered up to 40.

Here there is not much information available as to the real effect, except there is reason to believe that all single women from 20 to 25 will be drafted to the A.T.S. and others up to 30 will receive directions to take up some kind of factory or war work.

Boys and Girls

Boys and girls between 16 and 18 will be required to register with a view to their being encouraged to join appropriate organisations. What this means is not known at the moment.

Deferments and Reservations

Deferments will be dealt with in future by some 45 panels. Age of reservation has stepped up one year per month, commencing January 1. Employers are being notified.

In his comments, Mr. Fuller observes that until the Bill becomes law one can find no department with which to discuss the matters arising.

The principal item calling for immediate consideration will be the change of method of dealing with deferments and reservations. We do not know whether this will have to be negotiated as between employers or employees assisted by the local branch of the C.E.A. and the various panels, or direct by the C.E.A. with the Ministry of Labour.

Alternative Action

Although all previous arrangements technically are washed out by the new Act it does not follow that they will be ignored, but no decisions have yet been taken. Actually there appear to be only two decisions available for the committee:—

(1) (*a*) To write to the Board of Trade asking them for a continuation of their valuable assistance.

(*b*) To ask for an immediate interview with Lord Terrington as soon as the Bill is passed.

(2) To instruct the Reservation Sub-Committee to go right ahead with all necessary negotiations at the earliest possible moment in any and every quarter where it seems expedient to approach.

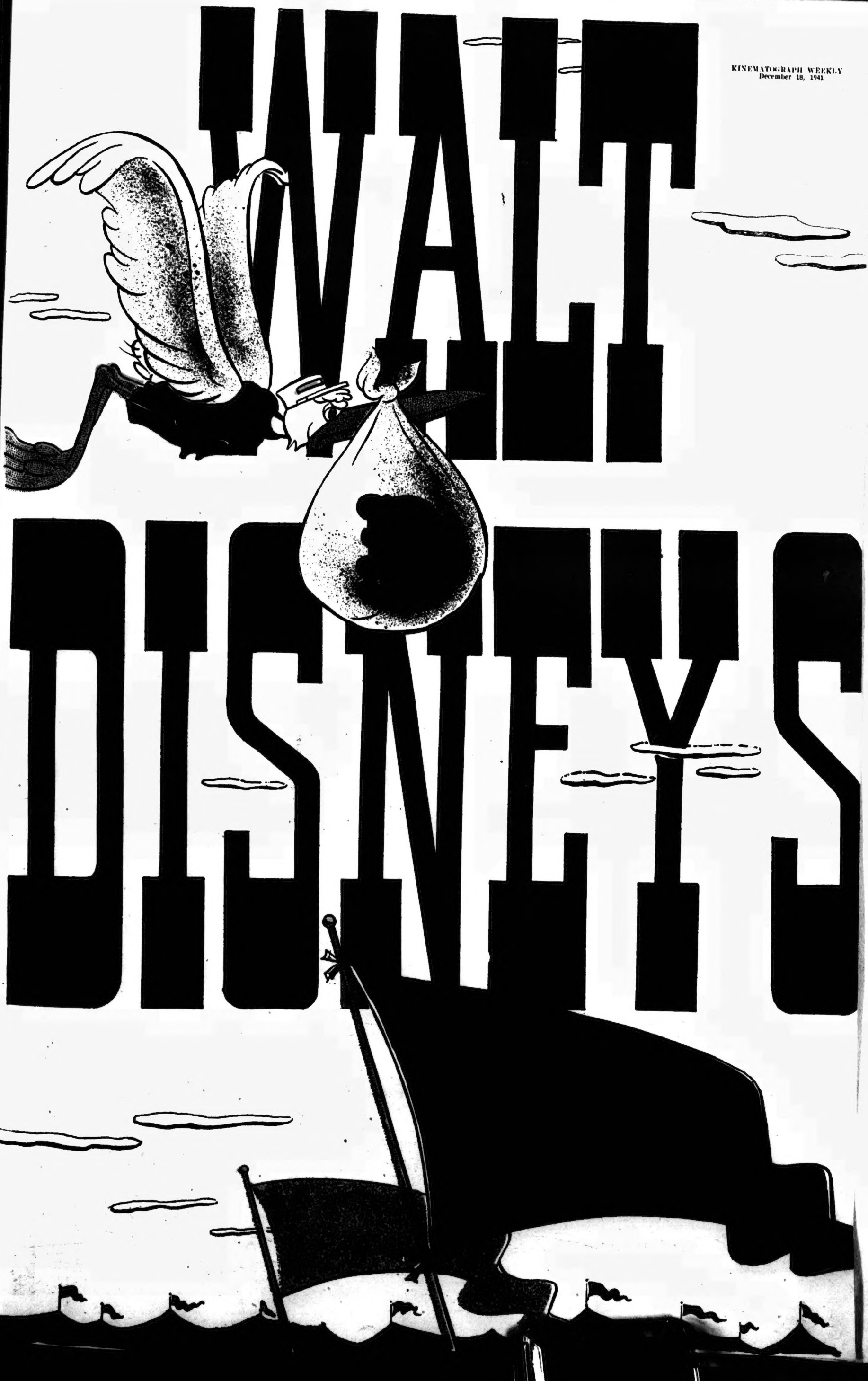
Reserved Occupations

Questions were asked both in relation to reservation of men and women employed in kinemas. The President and General Secretary stated that the points could not be dealt with until the National Service Bill was on the Statute Book, when immediate steps would be taken to clear the situation.

Recommendations Adopted

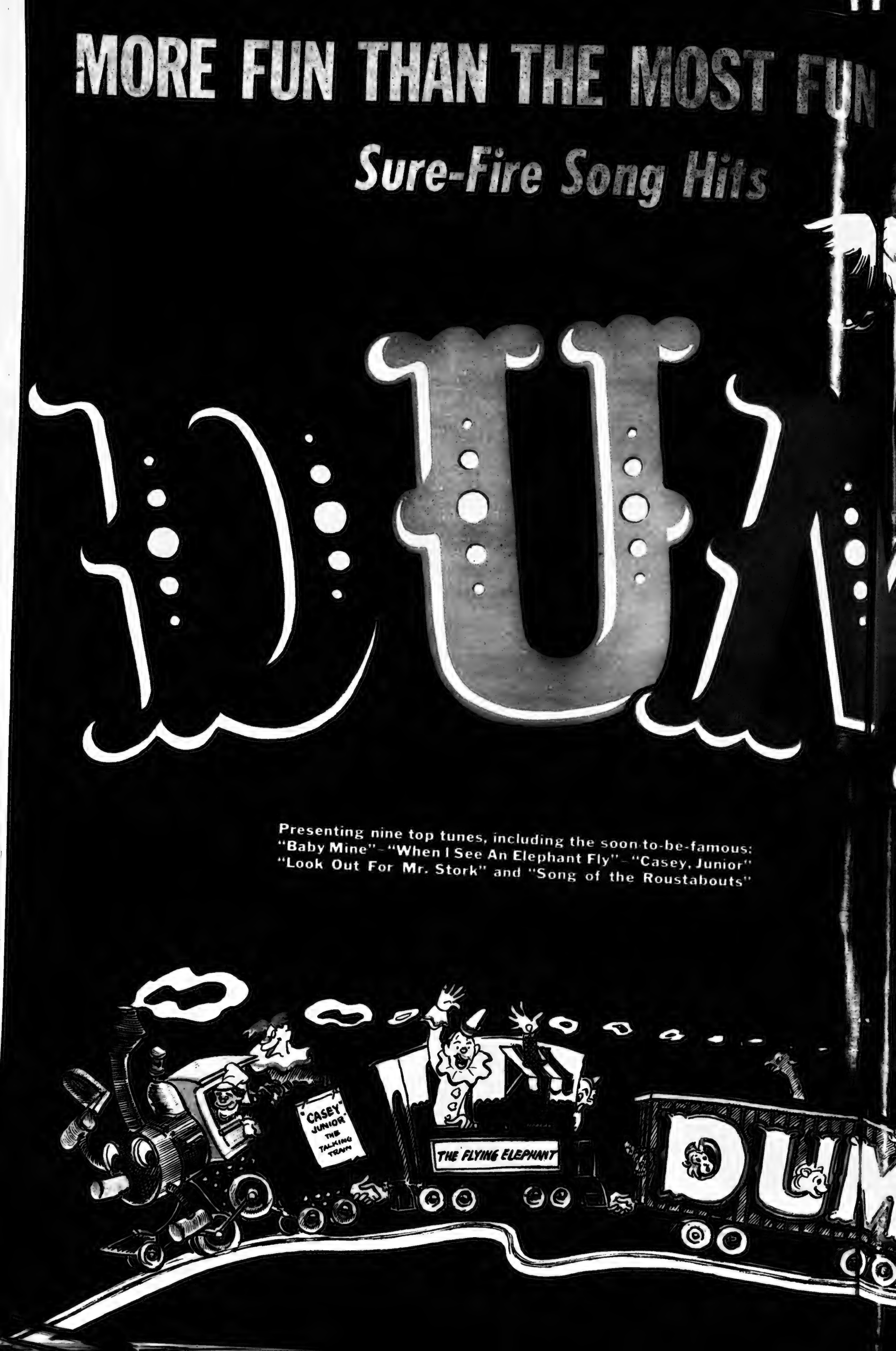
The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the two concluding decisions of the report were adopted by the General Council.

The committee also gave the General Council the assurance that this vitally important matter will be pursued in any and every quarter to the fullest extent as soon as the Bill is passed.


WALT
DISNEY'S

MORE FUN THAN THE MOST FUN

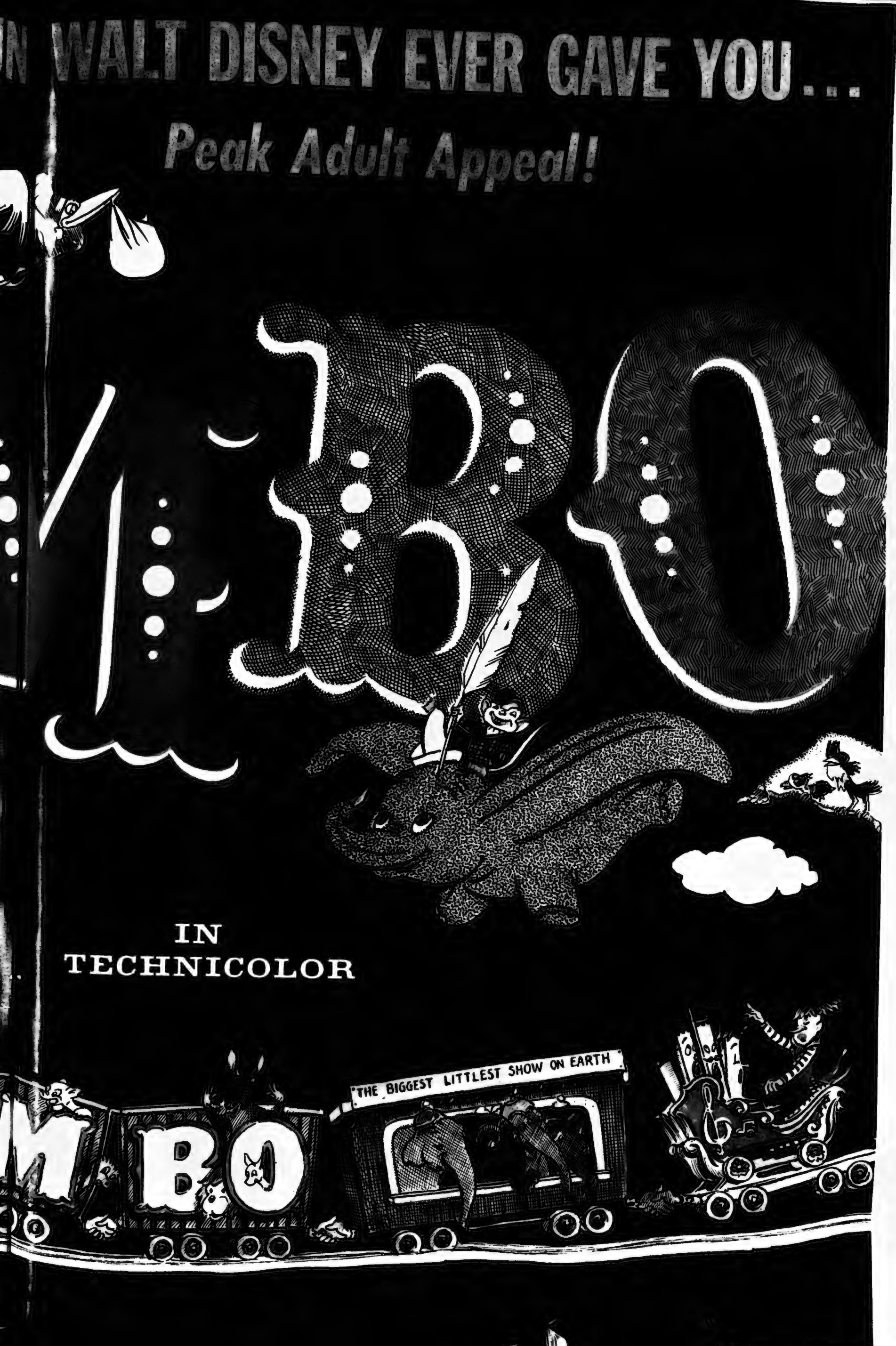
Sure-Fire Song Hits



Presenting nine top tunes, including the soon-to-be-famous:
"Baby Mine" – "When I See An Elephant Fly" – "Casey, Junior"
"Look Out For Mr. Stork" and "Song of the Roustabouts"

N WALT DISNEY EVER GAVE YOU...

Peak Adult Appeal!



IN
TECHNICOLOR

HERE'S A CIRCUS OF FUN "AWAY FROM IT ALL!"

CASEY JUNIOR, the happy little circus train that talks!

SEE

DUMBO, THE UGLY-DUCKLING BABY ELEPHANT WHOSE EARS WERE TOO BIG FOR HIS HAPPINESS. YOU'LL LOVE HIM!

SEE

TIMOTHY Q. MOUSE, THE TINY TERROR OF THE BIG TOP—DUMBO'S ONLY PAL!

SEE

PINK ELEPHANTS ON PARADE—AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

SEE

THE FIVE BLACK CROWS, THE RAUCOUS QUINTET THAT GIVES THE BLUES THE BIRD!

SEE

THE BIGGEST LITTLEST SHOW ON EARTH . . . IN WINTER QUARTERS, IN TRAINING AND GIVING PERFORMANCES ON TOUR

More STORY than in any previous Disney Show! . . . More THRILLS and NOVELTIES, HEART-THROBS and HILARITY! . . . More of EVERYTHING to make you say—

"The best Disney I've ever seen!"

WALT DISNEY'S

3-Ring FEATURE-LENGTH Production

In TECHNICOLOR

IT'S THE SCREEN'S GREATEST ADVENTURE IN ENCHANTMENT!

DUMBO

SEE

all the wonders, excitement, and action . . the clowns, menagerie . . . the parachute battalion of storks . . . all the marvels of the circus PLUS the charm that only Disney can create when he lets himself go!

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

9 TOP TUNES

including the country-swooping "BABY MINE" "WHEN I SEE AN ELEPHANT FLY" CASEY, JUNIOR" "LOOK OUT FOR MR. STORK" and "SONG OF THE ROUSTABOUTS"

Distributed by RKO RADIO Pictures Ltd.

PROVINCIAL TRADE SHOWS

BIRMINGHAM	West End	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.	GLASGOW	Picture House	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.	LIVERPOOL	Trocadero	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.
NOTTINGHAM	Hippodrome	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.	LEEDS	Scala	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.	MANCHESTER	Gaumont	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.
CARDIFF	Empire	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.	SHEFFIELD	Regent	10.30 a.m.	Dec. 30.	NEWCASTLE	Queen's	10.45 a.m.	Dec. 30.

"OBLIGING YOUNG LADY"

with

JOAN CARROLL
EDMOND O'BRIEN
RUTH WARRICK

PRODUCED BY HOWARD BENEDICT
DIRECTED BY RICHARD WALLACE

Screen Play by Frank Ryan and Bert Granet

The wonder-child of the screen . . .
In a Little Miss Mischief role that
will thrill and entertain the
whole family.

A William Dieterle P

ALL THAT MON

Based on the Story

THE DEVIL AND DANIEL WEBSTER

by

STEPHEN VINCENT BENET

Production

NEY CAN BUY

with

EDWARD ARNOLD · WALTER HUSTON · JANE DARWELL
SIMONE SIMON · GENE LOCKHART · JOHN QUALEN
and
ANNE SHIRLEY · JAMES CRAIG

Produced and Directed by **WILLIAM DIETERLE**
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER CHARLES L. GLETT

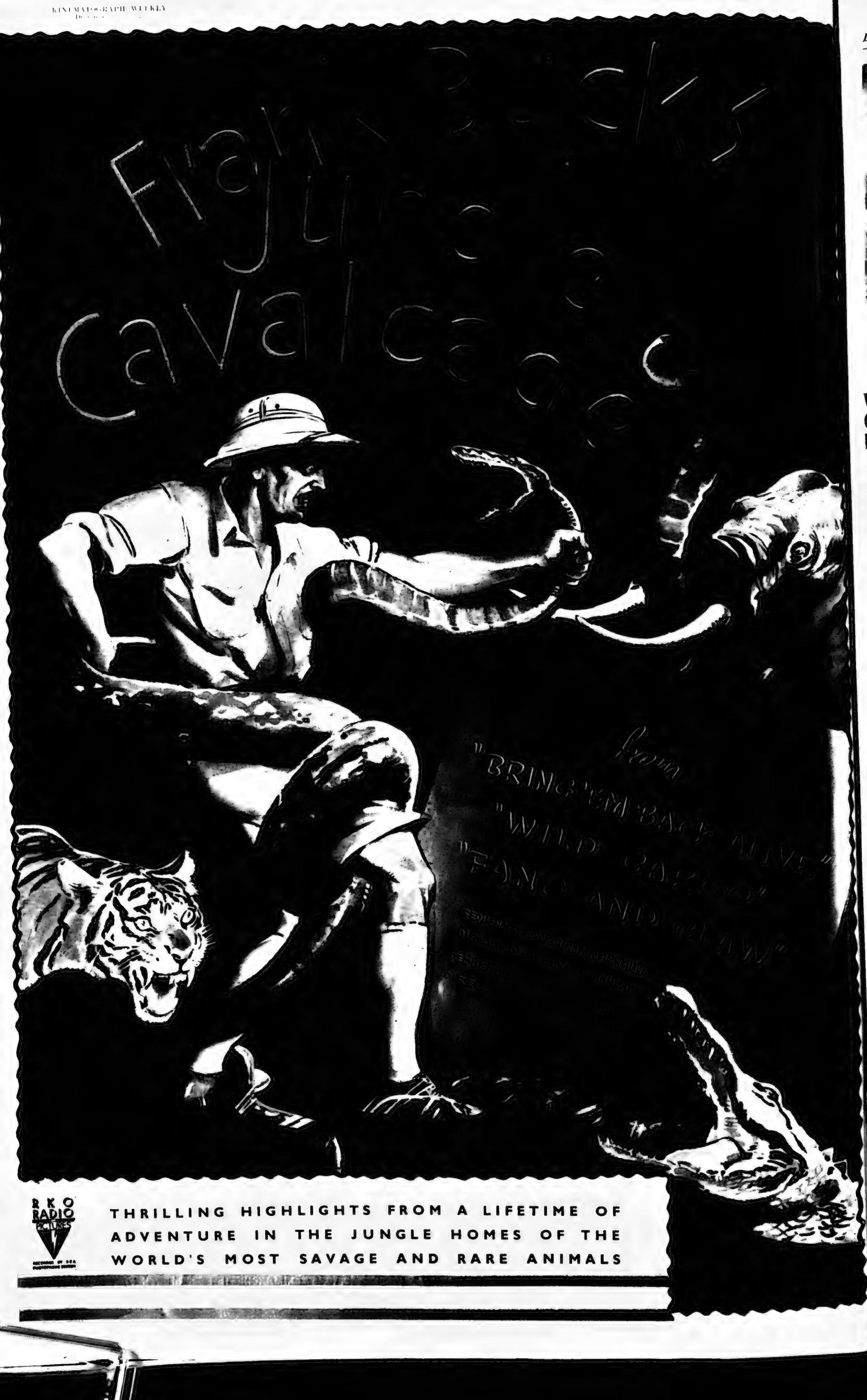
SCREEN PLAY BY DAN TOTHEROH AND STEPHEN VINCENT BENET

EDGAR BERGEN · FIBBER McGEE

CHARLIE McCARTHY

LOOK WHO'S

AND MO
LUCIE
LAUGHING!


Frank Buck's
Cavalcade
from
"BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE"
"WILD CARGO"
"FANG AND CLAW"
RKO RADIO PICTURES
THRILLING HIGHLIGHTS FROM A LIFETIME OF ADVENTURE IN THE JUNGLE HOMES OF THE WORLD'S MOST SAVAGE AND RARE ANIMALS

Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas in TWO-FACED WOMAN, which M-G-M Trade showed on Wednesday

Northern Ireland Business Flourishes

HUGE INCREASE IN PAST SIX MONTHS

Presentation to George Lodge

ENTERTAINMENT business in Northern Ireland shows a huge increase over the previous six months, the proof lying in the latest figures available of the Ulster Exchequer returns for the past six months. True, the increase in Entertainments Tax accounts for a part of this, but an addition of no less than £75,000, compared with the corresponding period of last year, also indicates increase in theatre attendances.

Two churches in Belfast, which held a combined service at which films were shown on a Sunday, brought upon themselves the criticism of co-religionists when the matter was raised at a meeting of Belfast Presbytery. It was contended that if churches continued to have film shows, how could churches object to kinemas opening on Sundays? One proposal was that it should be left to the churches to decide for themselves whether they would have these film shows on Sundays as they were the best days to get big audiences. Just when the debate was getting quite interesting someone moved the next business; the film debate must, however, have been interesting, as next business was only carried by one vote.

Staff Tribute

George Lodge, of the Imperial, Belfast, had a surprise after his staff had been granted the use of the kinema café for a staff party. He was asked to attend and was made the guest of honour and recipient of a presentation, the staff stating that they had arranged the function as a birthday gift for him. Incidentally, George is mighty proud of his latest achievement. For the 27th birthday of the opening of the Imperial he booked "Men of Boys' Town," and the returns show that it broke every record which had been set up in the long history of the house as far as attendance is concerned. As for a knowledge of what the public wants, he can claim to have been mighty successful with his recent bookings. "Boom Town" and "Ziegfeld Girl" played at the Ritz, another first-run house. George booked them as a first-run house for second showing Belfast, and returns are excellent.

Sunday Decision Deferred

Newtownards Town Council has just received a petition from the local anti-Sunday opening brigade. It is signed by 1,000 people who want the licence which has been granted to local kinemas to open for the troops to have stage shows cancelled. The Council have instructed the Town Clerk to put the petition on the file until the licences come up for renewal.

Ban on Children Sought

Belfast Corporation is to be asked by its Education Committee to put a ban on children going to kinemas in the afternoon. The reason for the request is that during an epidemic of a contagious skin affection a number of youngsters (very few, it should be noted), instead of being at school, were found in a kinema queue.

Open as Usual

Kinemas in Northern Ireland are not merely to open on Christmas Day but can open much earlier than usual and carry on with their ordinary programmes.

WHITE CINEMA CLUB'S LAST MEETING

Henceforth will be a Social Centre

THE last business meeting of the White Cinema Club, Belfast, was held in the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, when J. D. Russell occupied the chair. In future, the Club will deal with social and benevolent matters in connection with the Industry and the C.E.A. branch with business affairs.

The question of the new fire-watching Order issued by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Public Security was discussed, and the hon. secretary stated that exhibitors could only claim allowances for voluntary fire-watchers but not for paid fire-watchers. The chairman stated that it was absolutely essential that every kinema should see that the Order was carried out, and he felt that the Trade would give a lead to other sections of the community in the carrying out of the Order.

The committee was asked to draw up a programme of social and other functions for the Trade and to submit them to the next meeting.

Welcoming J. S. Collins, the new E.N.S.A. supervisor for Northern Ireland, Mr. Russell said that they looked forward to the same happy relations with Mr. Collins as they had had with Capt. Jock Hutchison, his predecessor. They were looking forward to the visit of George Formby, and the Trade not only hoped to have him as their guest at a special function but at a gala show they hoped to arrange for the Benevolent Fund.

Returning thanks for the welcome, Mr. Collins said he looked forward to the happiest relations with the Trade.

The meeting also welcomed Percy Inkester, A.B.C. supervisor, who was on a business trip to Northern Ireland.

"MOST FILM PLOTS BALDERDASH"

Croydon Cleric Wants Public Control

A B.B.C. organisation for the public control of films as a means of raising the standards of the kinema was suggested by Croydon Rotarians taking part in a recent club debate on the talk given by Oliver Bell, Director of the British Film Institute.

The Rev. S. S. Shrubsole, a member of the Croydon Sunday Films Selection Committee (which controls Sunday programmes in the local kinemas) said, that if the object of the committee had been to make films more uplifting and less demoralising it had failed completely. All the committee could do was to reject a few of the very worst films, and those could be shown during the week.

The committee based its decisions on synopses or in doubtful cases on a private viewing he said. Most of the plots—57 were read at a recent meeting—struck him as absolute balderdash. Rejections were largely on the ground of brutality and that sort of thing and occasionally on moral grounds.

He was not narrow-minded, but he was appalled at the paucity of worth-while films when there was such an abundance of first-class material. Even if film makers took a first-rate novel or play, they mangled or massacred it to such an extent because of what they thought the public would like that it was completely spoilt. The film magnates made fortunes and succeeded only in debauching public taste and degenerating the moral outlook. What was wanted was public control and the elimination of the profit motive.

Coun. B. Monk thought we were missing the biggest opportunity of the war in not making greater use of films in factories. War production could be expanded to a marked degree by educational films.

Replying to the debate, Mr. Bell visualised after the war an increasing specialising of kinemas. That was beginning in 1939, when certain kinemas were showing exclusively news films, educational pictures and other specialised types.

"BANANA RIDGE"

West End Run

W. J. Gell, managing director of Pathe, announces that the latest Associated British production, "Banana Ridge," had a successful première run at the Regal, Marble Arch.

This British comedy, the best of Travers' successes, is to be Trade shown by Pathe at a nearly date. It was produced at Welwyn and directed by Walter C. Mycroft.

C.E.A. WARNING ON NEW QUOTA ORDER

Paper Concession Urged

BRANCH ACCOUNTS APPEAL

IN the course of its sitting last week the General Council of the C.E.A. dealt with a group of miscellaneous matters. Attention was directed to the proposal to reduce the quota obligations of the exhibitor, and it was decided to note the criticism made at branch meetings of the film marking system. A request was also made for the early rendition of branch accounts.

Attention was drawn to the fact that a new Order has been tabled under the Cinematograph Films Act whereby the exhibitor's quota for the year commencing October 1, 1942, will be reduced to 15 per cent.

For the sake of emphasis it should be stated that the current quota year is not affected and remains at 17½ per cent. The reduction does not come into effect until the next quota year. The quota for shorts commencing on October 1, 1942, will be 12½ per cent.

Paper Restriction

In regard to the Paper Restriction Order the General Purposes Committee had been assured that restrictions of paper are due to national need.

Representations have been made to Lord Portal and the Ministry of Supply for an extension of time to use up existing stocks. This is a matter in which the Trade is entirely in the hands of the Ministry, who knows what is the need and what suspension they can offer.

It has been intimated to the Ministry that the Trade is prepared to play its part and will gratefully accept any concession which permits the use of existing printed stocks.

Film Markings

The resolution remitted by the General Council concerning film report markings has been considered by the General Purposes Committee. It has taken note of every useful suggestion that has been offered with a view to it being incorporated into future issues of the Film Report.

The Committee has had a full, frank and interesting discussion on the points raised, all of which have been carefully noted.

Curfew Tributes

On the subject of "curfew" negotiations, letters of acknowledgment for the appreciation expressed to them by the association were noted from the Prime Minister, Colonel Llewellin, M.P., W. Mabane, M.P., and the Minister of Information. The general secretary reported that a letter of appreciation had also been written to the Minister of Home Security.

Branch Accounts

E. J. HINGE, hon. treasurer, made a special appeal to the delegates to ask their branches to have their annual accounts ready in good time this year. He said this was just to ask the delegates to see that their branches have their annual accounts in as early as possible in January so that they could be in the hands of the accountants by the end of January.

According to branch rule accounts are supposed to be submitted to the branches by January 20, and forwarded to head office before January 30. The reason he made this request was that last year for the first time delegates were not in possession of a copy of the accounts before the annual meeting, and there were expressions of dissatisfaction from some members that they had not had an opportunity of scrutinising them. The sole reason was that some branches were dilatory in sending in their annual accounts.

They all knew that according to the rules there is no call for the copy of the accounts to be distributed to members, but as they had always done so in the past, with the exception of last year, he hoped they would be able to revert to the usual practice this year, because in spite of the bad luck of some of the members and depletion in revenue it looks as if it will be quite a satisfactory financial year.

Welcome to the Major

The PRESIDENT said he was delighted to see that Major Fligelstone had come to the meeting, and extended a cordial welcome. Major Fligelstone was doing a great job of work as well as his duty to his country and the troops, but he also bore in mind the cordial relations and friendships which he had within the association, and it was a pleasure to see him in the General Council, which he hoped would be repeated.

Leicester for Next Meeting

It was unanimously agreed to accept the invitation from the Leicestershire Branch to hold the next meeting at Leicester on Wednesday, January 14. The invitation to a joint luncheon, following the meeting, by the Leicestershire and Birmingham Branches was also accepted.

Delegates were urged to write without delay for their hotel accommodation to the Secretary of the Leicestershire Branch, S. J. Gunby, Messrs. Deacon and Company, National Chambers, 4, Horsefair Street, Leicester. It was emphasised that bookings would be made in order of applications received and should give the period for which the room was wanted.

President's Christmas Wishes

The President wished all the delegates a very happy Christmas. The proceedings then terminated.

Discrimination in Rentals Alleged

K.R.S. PROCEDURE CRITICISED BY C.E.A.

ALLEGATIONS of discrimination against a member were made at the general council meeting of the C.E.A., which considered the following report of the L.F. and P. Committee. Members will be aware that the K.R.S. recently placed one of the members of this Association upon what has been termed the "percentage booking list." Previously no comment has been made by the Association in view of the fact that no approach had been made by the member for assistance. The member has now approached for assistance, and it appears that the film rental which he pays for his circuit is of the same percentage as the K.R.S. itself adopts when it settles a number of matters that come before it.

In consequence it is a matter of inquiry as to why the K.R.S. should discriminate against one member and as to whether its action is bona-fide.

The recommendation of the committee that the support of the Association should be given to this member, and will immediately institute negotiations with the K.R.S., was agreed to.

CHILDREN AND "A" FILMS

Decision to be Challenged

The situation at Warrington in regard to a condition upon the licence excluding children under 16 from attending kinemas on Sunday is being carefully watched by the General Council.

Should the County Council impose this condition the fullest support will be given to the North Western Branch to contest its validity in the courts.

Constance Bennett and Regis Toomey in THE LAW OF THE TROPICS, which Warner Trade showed on Wednesday

NORTH-WESTERN PLANS A TRAINING SCHEME

To Meet Operator Shortage

CRITICISM OF GUILD INACTIVITY

ARRANGEMENTS are being made at Liverpool to train persons who may be called upon to undertake duty in the projection rooms. This matter was discussed at Friday's meeting of the North-Western branch held at Liverpool. W. J. Speakman presided.

J. M. CANNON (G.-B.), who referred to the importance of being able to fill the positions of projectionists who might be called up, said that in the Liverpool area there was already a nucleus organisation for training relief projectionists. The need for this would soon be still more imperative.

For some months girls had been undergoing a course of instruction in part of the Rialto building, from which they were passed out to take up theatre duty when fit. If the North-Western branch was interested and considered something should be attempted in the interests of the general body of exhibitors, he suggested that a small committee might be appointed to consider the matter.

He would be glad to give them what assistance he could. Whatever plans were made, they should be such as would enable exhibitor co-operation on a wide basis. It was vital to-day that exhibitors should be ready to help one another. Concerning the existing local G.-B. projectionists' school, the technical side was in good hands.

Commending the proposal, the CHAIRMAN said the filling of vacancies caused by the call-up of projectionists was not yet as awkward as it would become. The seriousness of the position might be felt as early as January.

The Guild

When a question was asked whether the Guild of Projectionists was interested there were comments that the organisation did not appear to be functioning actively.

In the course of further discussion, Mr. CANNON considered it should be the duty of the sub-committee (if appointed) to lay down rules and to indicate how the scheme could be made most useful. The training organisation was actually ready and could be extended quite easily.

G.-B. was training 30 local girls at the present time. The course took six to eight weeks, and candidates had to reach a certificate standard before being passed out.

W. J. Speakman, E. H. Whittel and J. M. CANNON were appointed as sub-committee to go into the question. When all the details have been worked out an outline of the scheme will be communicated to members.

Pay for Sunday Work

A report was submitted of a meeting of the branch Wages and Conditions Negotiating Committee and of its meeting with representatives of the N.A.T.K.E. and the Transport and General Workers' Union. The unions' application included double pay for Sunday work and a day off at the first available opportunity.

Later they indicated they were prepared to accept one day's pay for Sunday work, based on earnings; overtime at time and a half; cleaners and night attendants two days' pay based on earnings.

Rejected

The branch Negotiating Committee offered the following terms, which were rejected by the unions: Sunday pay to be one-twelfth of the wages earned, subject to the unions accepting an extension of the maximum hours from five to six; no retrospective payments to be made; cleaners, one days's pay; commencing date to be fixed by the General Purposes Committee of the C.E.A.

As agreement could not be reached, all the facts were put before the General Purposes Committee, which had upheld the decisions of the branch Negotiating Committee.

A member remarked that, with one exception, the terms were considered to be the best in the country, and that the General Purposes Committee could not see any reason why they should not be accepted by the trade unions.

The meeting unanimously approved the action of the branch Negotiating Committee.

Armlets for Uniforms

Secretary DUDLEY WEST reported he had put before the Liverpool chief constable the difficulty of providing staff uniforms owing to the coupon regulations. He replied in sympathetic terms, and explained that the point was one for consideration by the justices. In the meantime, the police would not take exception to attendants in ordinary clothing wearing an armlet, and in the case of male employees a peaked cap as well.

The CHAIRMAN: As soon as word is received from the magistrates' clerk, licensees will be notified.

De-reservation

The CHAIRMAN referred to the de-reservation of projectionists and to the new problems that this would cause. It seemed that theatres would be left with one projectionist only and that vacancies would have to be filled by boys, a certain number of girls and women and elderly people.

Endeavours were being made by the C.E.A. to secure an early interview with Lord Terrington.

Propaganda Films

Concerning the film "Seaman Frank," and the report that in one local area it was proposed to add a special trailer to give local colour, E. H. WHITTELL said the film had great propaganda value, but it was so skilfully made that the propaganda was not obvious. He felt that a trailer would spoil the effect.

It was stated that exhibitors were being constantly harassed by being asked by local committees of official departments to show special films of propaganda value. Whilst they were reluctant to refuse, they could not afford to ignore the balance of programmes and the desire of the public to be entertained. When M. of I. films were shown, there was a limit to what could be accepted in the way of other propaganda subjects.

Warrington Sunday Opening

R. P. RUTHERFORD reported on the Sunday opening position at Warrington. A deputation had waited on the Watch Committee to object to two conditions, one of which was a ban on the admission of children. The Watch Committee refused to alter the conditions.

It transpired that the Watch Committee was not really the licensing authority, but merely acted as a committee of the Town Council, which held the licensing powers. In the circumstances, endeavours were being made to secure permission for exhibitors to state their case direct to the Council. In the event of the application failing, it was possible further action would be taken.

Doorman on the Dole

Astonishment was expressed when the CHAIRMAN related the circumstances of a kinema doorman who had to leave his job to take up war work. A sufferer from asthma, he was put in the medical category of Grade 4.

However, he had to leave his kinema work, undertake a training course and then fill a position in a war work factory. He had been paid as much as £1. 3s. 4d. per week. Now he was found to be unfit for either the Army or war work, and wanted his old job back.

He had been down to the Labour Exchange four times to seek permission to resume his former employment, but so far had been refused, yet he was without a job and drawing unemployment pay. In fact, he was believed to be the only man at this Labour Exchange drawing relief.

The Labour Exchange people were keeping him on the lists in the hope of finding him some light work which he could do, but if they did not succeed they said he (Mr. Speakman) could have him back.

Wallasey Voucher Scheme

From the Mayor of Wallasey's War Comforts Committee was received a letter outlining a scheme for the distribution of a limited number of vouchers each month to persons who desired to attend local kinemas. Each voucher would have a face value of 4d.

Exhibitors were asked to accept these vouchers in part payment of the seat selected by the patron and to redeem them for cash from the borough treasurer.

Subject to more precise details being obtained, the arrangement was approved.

Leslie Fuller with Johnnie Singer, Gerald Re[illegible] and Gerald Moore in FRONT LINE KIDS, th[illegible] Butcher-Signet production at Riverside

BOURNEMOUTH FORMS C.T.B.F. COMMITTEE

Will Co-operate With Southampton

AT last week's meeting of the Bournemouth sub-section of the Hants and Isle of Wight branch, it was decided to appoint G. BRAVERY (chairman), E. TURNBULL (secretary) and BERT MILLER as a committee for forwarding the interests in the district of the C.T.B.F. This committee will work in conjunction with the Southampton committee as the committee for the whole branch.

In reply to a letter from the hon. treasurer of the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, asking local exhibitors to show a trailer made by Lionel Barrymore on behalf of a fund to meet the deficit on the hospital, it was decided to state that exhibitors would be willing to show the film during the week preceding the hospital flag day, but the question of taking a collection in the kinemas was left to the individual exhibitor.

It was decided to apply for Good Friday opening, and the regulations as to paper restrictions were discussed.

W. THORNTON was appointed auditor in place of Mr. Hilberry.

The annual meeting of the sub-section was fixed for January 6.

SOUTHPORT CAFE AS SEPARATE BUSINESS

It was disclosed at the Southport Licensing Sessions that Robert McCain has rented the café of the Grand, Southport, and intended to operate it separately from the kinema. He applied for a music and dancing licence.

It was stated that he intended to provide tea dances, and evening dances until 11 p.m., with music only on Sundays.

The grant of the licence was deferred pending the working out of a scheme to prevent the mingling of café with kinema patrons.

GOOD FRIDAY AND CHRISTMAS OPENING

Bournemouth Application Granted

BOURNEMOUTH kinemas will be open for the first time on Good Friday next year, and they are again to open on Christmas Day.

This was the result of an application to the Bournemouth magistrates on Thursday by A. E. Dalton, on behalf of the kinema exhibitors in Bournemouth.

Mr Dalton asked that the opening time for Good Friday should be from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. He said that it was desired to bring Bournemouth into line with other kinemas in Hampshire. He also asked for Christmas Day opening as last year, and for the necessary music licences for incidental music.

Mr. Elliott Turnbull, Secretary of the Bournemouth Sub-section of the Hants and Isle of Wight Branch of the C.E.A., in the witness box, said that in these days when the town had a lot of strangers in their midst kinema exhibitors felt they should try to cater for them. Speaking for his own theatre, the Regent, the audiences on Sundays had been 60 per cent. members of the Forces.

Supt. Osman said he had no observations to make from the police point of view.

Mr. Turnbull was asked by the magistrates what percentage of children attended the Sunday performances, and he replied that as the programmes invariably contained an "A" film there were very few unaccompanied children. He added that he thought that parents generally sent their children to Sunday School and came along to the kinema themselves, it was cheaper.

The magistrates agreed to renew the licences generally for the year, and to agree to the applications for Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday opening, the hours being 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays, and 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Good Friday and Christmas Days.

Managers and War Work

NORTH-WESTERN DISCUSSION

Managers over the age of 41 who have been called upon to undertake war work was the subject of a statement by W. J. SPEAKMAN, chairman of the N.W. Branch, who reported an interview he had had with a local labour exchange officer. It seemed, he said, that under the National Armed Services Act the national service officer could instruct men over 41 to go on war work, if he considered they were not already engaged on work of national importance, but the men could please themselves what work they took up.

There was no appeal against the decision of the national service officer. Unfortunately, in present circumstances, the exhibition of films was not accepted as a protected industry.

P. INKESTER thought that managers called up for interviews at the Labour Exchange should be provided by the branch secretary with a letter stressing the importance of the work upon which they were engaged, and pointing out that the licensee's was a responsible and specialised job.

R. F. SCOTT: The Government will have to decide whether the theatres are to keep open. If so, they will have to allow us sufficient staff.

R. P. RUTHERFORD asked for a definition of a "fit and proper" person to hold a kinematograph licence.

The CHAIRMAN: Anyone who is approved by the police or the Bench.

This raised the question whether a person suffering from physical disabilities can be regarded as a "fit" person. It was then disclosed that for some years one Liverpool kinema had as its licensee a man who was almost blind, but he had a very capable assistant manager.

Fred Astaire, Robert Benchley, Osa Massen and Frieda Inescourt in a scene from YOU'LL NEVER GET RICH, forthcoming Columbia production

Editor's Letter Bag

Gas-Mask Film

NOT INTENDED FOR THE TRADE

In your issue of December 4, you stated that the film "The Guardian of Your Life" had been withdrawn from the kinema.

I would inform you that this film has never been offered to the Trade for inclusion in the normal programme. The local authorities were advised that the film was available, and that they might be able to make arrangements for special showings through the medium of the local kinemas in their district.

The film is essentially of a training character and the statements made in the House of Commons support this.

As this company produced the film, I would take this opportunity of answering the comments made as to the length of the film. This was entirely regulated by the desires of the Ministry of Home Security who wished to have every detail shown and, with the greatest care in cutting, it was found impossible to shorten it unless certain details of drill, etc., were excluded, which the Ministry would not agree to have done.

CLAUDE D. SOMAN,
Managing Director, Cinit, Ltd.

FIRST AID AT KINEMA

Grimsby Manager Thanked by Local A.R.P.

When a Nazi plane scattered incendiary bombs over an East Coast town recently a local kinema was turned into an emergency clearing station where injured people before being removed by ambulance to a first-aid post, were treated by the manager, Charles Clow.

Quite a number of the bombs fell in the vicinity of the kinema, some actually hitting the building, and being extinguished by Mr. Clow and his staff, the audience inside being unaware of what was happening.

Five cases of people injured by explosive incendiaries were treated by Mr. Clow, who was later thanked by the A.R.P. Controller and Medical Officer.

New Films at a Glance

Title and Renter.	R.T. and Certificate.	Stars.	Remarks.	Box-Office Angle.
All That Money Can Buy (RKO-Radio)—American.	106 min. (A)	Edward Arnold, Walter Huston, Anne Shirley.	Spectacular screen parable with an early New England background. Acting sincere but treatment rather old-fashioned.	Out-of-the-rut proposition, mainly for the unsophisticated. Hardly suitable for children.
†**Dumbo** (RKO-Radio)—American.	63 min. (U)	———	Delightful cartoon fantasy, photographed in Technicolor against a colourful circus background. Story charming, gags riotous, sentiment ingratiating and characters irresistible. Colour work superb.	Excellent cartoon offering. Great for youngsters.
Jungle Cavalcade (RKO-Radio)—American.	70 min. (U)	Frank Buck	Jungle melodrama built up from highlights from Frank Buck's popular animal epics. Thrills convincing, atmosphere authentic and commentary and presentation slick.	Good novelty programmer for the masses and the family.
Look Who's Laughing (RKO-Radio)—American.	73 min. (U)	Edgar Bergen, Fibber McGee, and Molly.	Small town comedy providing plenty of scope for famous ventriloquist. Good acting and presentation.	Good supporting feature for the family.
Strange Alibi (Warner)—American.	5,688 ft.(A)	Arthur Kennedy, Joan Perry, Florence Bates.	Crime melodrama with an American police force background. Story compact, action fast, teamwork enthusiastic and climax thrilling.	Very good support for the industrial element. Should not harm youngsters.
Week-end for Three (RKO-Radio)—American.	66 min. (U)	Dennis O'Keefe, Jane Wyatt, Philip Reed.	Marital comedy with a triangle theme. Story amusing, but treatment rowdy. Production elegant.	Fair average comedy second. Nothing to harm youngsters.

† In Colour.

REVIEWS FOR SHOWMEN

Dumbo

RKO-Radio. American (U). Photographed in Technicolor. Directed by Walt Disney. 5,760 feet. Release not fixed.

DELIGHTFUL cartoon fantasy, photographed in Technicolor, against a quaint and colourful circus background, concerning the happy friendship of Dumbo, a big-eared, mischievous baby elephant, and Timothy, a magnanimous mouse. The two are irresistible Disney creations, and the peculiarity of the former and the resource of the latter furnish material for a limitless chain of charming and riotous gags and situations.

Effective voice-doubling—all the characters speak with the exception of Dumbo—and appropriate and tuneful songs subtly amplify the captivating alternation. The backgrounds, draftsmanship and colour work are impeccable.

It is Disney's best since "Snow White." Excellent cartoon offering, a grand Christmas treat for young and old alike.

Story.—Jumbo, a circus elephant, has a baby, Dumbo. Unfortunately, the infant is born with big ears, and he immediately becomes a figure of ridicule and fun. In defending her offspring Jumbo gets out of hand and has to be restrained.

Timothy, a mouse, befriends Dumbo, but later the two innocently drink from a butt in which champagne has been spilled. They see pink elephants and finish up high in a tree. Black crows laugh at their plight, but Timothy appeals to them to give Dumbo a square deal. The crows' hearts are softened and they teach Dumbo to fly with his ears. He is a sensation, and brings fame and wealth to himself and his mother.

Acting.—Dumbo, the baby elephant, is an irresistible addition to the remarkable and likeable Disney gallery. He remains dumb throughout, but his trunk and ears are eloquent.

Timothy, the mouse, talks. His words and songs are happily in keeping with the part. He is another Jiminy Cricket. Five black crows and some gossiping elephants are other clever, fascinating and humorous characters.

Production.—The opening sequence illustrating storks' visits to practically every animal member of the circus is marvellous. Jumbo's abortive efforts to shelter the big-eared Dumbo from ridicule is maternity gracefully burlesqued. The gossiping old elephants are also cleverly borrowed from human life.

The clutter of the five black crows and their subsequent eagerness to teach Dumbo to fly is superb pantomime. The power dive climax is grand slapstick. The "hang-over" sequence following Dumbo and Timothy's innocent imbibing of champagne is slightly less effective—it is too Fantasia. Nevertheless, it emphasises Disney's remarkable and inimitable versatility without seriously unbalancing the whole.

All the numbers are tuneful and the voice-doubling is perfect. The colour work is indescribable. The complete film has all the warmth, charm, action, happiness and intoxicating make-believe of an established fairy tale. Never has its happy escapist atmosphere and entertainment been more welcome.

Points of Appeal.—Delightful story, brilliant character creation, marvellous gags, charming sentiment, tuneful numbers, tremendous family and feminine appeal, good title and box-office creator.

All That Money Can Buy

RKO-Radio. American (A). Directed by William Dieterle. Featuring Edward Arnold, Walter Huston and Anne Shirley. 9,540 feet. Release not fixed.

SPECTACULAR screen parable, a fabulous compound of fantasy, allegory and symbolism, concerning a young New Englander's reckless transaction with the Devil. He inevitably realises his folly in putting lucre before God, but he and his own suffer severe torment before a man of God ultimately saves him from the traditional toll of his greedy and ugly transgression.

The sermon is sincerely—nay, enthusiastically—conducted by the leading players, and there are appropriate atmosphere and trimmings—the Devil's dealings are, for instance, usually emphasised by flame—but sound, or rather stern, as the moral is, the play savours a little too strongly of fire and brimstone to be confidently classified as popular entertainment. Out-of-the-rut proposition mainly for the unsophisticated.

Story.—Jabez Stone, a struggling farmer, cannot meet his obligations. His misfortune enrages him and in a rash moment he openly declares his willingness to sell his soul to the Devil. Mr. Scratch, a mysterious stranger, immediately appears. He negotiates with Jabez, who as a result barters his soul for seven years of prosperity. Money goes to his head and before long he is estranged from his wife, Mary, and hated by his neighbours. Nevertheless, a son is born to him. When his settlement with Scratch eventually falls due Scratch offers him an extension in return for his son's soul.

Mary, who has been turned out of her home in favour of Belle, Jabez's mistress, appeals to Daniel Webster, a prominent, God-fearing politician. Jabez and Webster meet Scratch. Webster demands a trial, but Scratch attempts to defeat him by calling a jury made up of renegades of the past. The ghosts at first favour Scratch, but in the end Webster's oratory saves Jabez's soul.

Acting.—Edward Arnold contributes a convincing performance as the God-fearing Daniel Webster, but Walter Huston tends to overact as Mr. Scratch, the Devil's disciple. James Craig is seldom happy as the foolish Jabez. The best supporting characterisation comes from Jane Darwell as Jabez's mother.

Production.—The basic battle between good and evil is, with all its inherent seriousness, presented at times on unconscious pantomime lines. The Devil in the guise of Mr. Scratch and his emissary in the guise of the wanton and seductive Belle are very much overdrawn. The loyalty and unalloyed sweetness of Mary runs to the other extreme.

James Craig also overdoes it, first as the mercenary and dissolute, and then as the repentant Jabez. In fact, Edward Arnold as Daniel Webster and Jane Darwell as Jabez's mother are the only two to retain a sense of proportion.

As for the fantastic culminating trial scene, this loses much of its point because the American knaves, traitors and liars of the past, brought back to act as jurymen, mean nothing to English audiences. Nevertheless, the film strikes a formidable moral note. The leading question is: Is the time opportune for this sort of lesson? We leave it to the individual exhibitor to decide.

Points of Appeal.—Turgid yet thought-provoking story, sincere and earnest treatment, powerful cast and provocative title.

Jungle Cavalcade

RKO-Radio. American (U). Directed by Clyde Elliott. Featuring Frank Buck. 6,466 feet. Release not fixed.

JUNGLE melodrama built up from highlights from Frank Buck's popular animal epics, "Bring 'Em Back Alive," "Wild Cargo," and "Fang and Claw." The picture has no specific design, but thrills and humour are, nevertheless, adroitly mixed. A well-plugged tiger is mainly responsible for the former, and an equally well-plugged pet monkey and honeybear adequately furnish the latter.

Detail is colourful and authentic, commentary is pungent yet restrained, and photography excellent. It's three good reissues in one. Good novelty programmer for the masses and family.

Production.—The big moments from Frank Buck's previous hits are neatly stacked in this exciting and eventful jungle symposium. A fight between a leopard and a rhinoceros, a spot of bother between a black panther and a cobra, the round-up of wild elephants, and a shot of Frank Buck mastering a cobra with his bare hand represent the most spectacular thrills.

A tiger who, apparently, is bullet proof appears at frequent intervals, and his sinister and well-timed appearances add to the tension. A mischievous monkey and honeybear provide the appropriate comedy relief. Smooth, straight-from-the-shoulder commentary by the hunter himself effectively welds the whole. It's a good, if familiar, offering of its type.

Points of Appeal.—Good thrills, authentic jungle atmosphere and detail, concise presentation and obvious exploitation angles.

Week-end for Three

RKO-Radio. American (U). Directed by Irving Reis. Featuring Dennis O'Keefe, Jane Wyatt and Philip Reed. 5,933 feet. Release not fixed.

MARITAL comedy, telling of the unexpected repercussions to a young wife's scheme to arouse the jealousy of her neglectful husband. Philip Reed is the cause of most of the trouble but he takes his boisterous part a little too seriously for the film's good. He very nearly overpowers the onlooker, let alone the characters concerned. It is a laugh mainly for those with stout ear-drums. Fair average comedy second.

Story.—Jim Craig, a young married man, puts business before his attractive wife, Ellen. Ellen resents his neglect and decides to do something about it. Andy, one of Ellen's old flames, happens to be in town and she invites him for the week-end. Andy is in high spirits, and before long his rowdy exuberance turns the Craig household into pandemonium.

Ellen soon realises that her plan has misfired, but she is big enough to admit the truth to Jim. The confession brings the two together, but it is only by going on a second honeymoon that they succeed in getting Andy out of their hair.

Acting.—Philip Reed is "life of the party" Andy, and he is given so much rope that before very long the play devolves into a one-sided bawling match. Dennis O'Keefe and Jane Wyatt are dumb in contrast as Jim and Ellen. So are Edward Everett Horton, Franklin Pangborn and Zasu Pitts.

Production.—The story, slight as it is, has fairly sound credentials, but the vociferous intrusions seldom give it fair chance. Its attractive cast and slight feminine interest are its main booking angles. The production qualities, incidentally, are first-class.

Points of Appeal.—Amusing marital angle, polished staging, slight feminine angle, good title and popular cast.

Strange Alibi

Warner. American (A). Directed by D. Ross Lederman. Featuring Arthur Kennedy, Joan Perry and Florence Bates. 5,688 feet. Release not fixed.

CRIME melodrama, with an American police background, concerning the activities of an eager and courageous young cop who successfully employs subterfuge to unmask internal villainy. The story is not exactly original, but it gets a move on from the word go. Its hectic pace, together with the enthusiastic teamwork of a shrewdly chosen cast, effectively cloaks its time-honoured fundamentals. The last reel is a regular corker. Very good support for the industrial element.

Story.—Joe Geary, a young police officer, and his superior, Chief Sprague, suspect Captain Reddick and Lieut.-Detective Pagle of being behind a local gambling racket. Sprague fires Joe on a phoney charge of insubordination; the idea being for Joe to show resentment and so gain the confidence of the suspects.

This goes according to plan, but Reddick and Pagle get wise to him. They murder Sprague and plant the blame on Joe. Joe is found guilty, but after much rough treatment in prison he escapes and, with the help of Alice, his girl, and Katie, a shrewd gambling-saloon hostess, gets the goods on Reddick and Pagle and clears himself.

Acting.—Arthur Kennedy is thoroughly convincing as the courageous and zealous Joe. Joan Perry is adequate in the small rôle of Alice, and Florence Bates is good as the hard-boiled Katie. Cliff Clark and Stanley Andrews are in their element as Reddick and Pagle.

Production.—The story is not very flattering to the American police force, neither does it come in the bed-time category, but it, nevertheless, meets all the demands of those who demand action. The concluding chapter is supercharged. Its sustained punch is its certain key to mass and industrial approbation.

Points of Appeal.—Crowded story, fast action, vigorous scraps, terrific chases, popular romantic asides, enthusiastic cast, convenient footage and good title.

Look Who's Laughing

RKO-Radio. American (U). Directed by Allan Dwan. Featuring Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Fibber Magee and Molly. 7,067 feet. Release not fixed.

EDGAR BERGEN, the ventriloquist, is the backbone of this small-town comedy, which has plenty of laughs, a simple, pleasant atmosphere, and good domestic humour. Although the story is a slight one, it is well characterised and forms an excellent means of introducing two famous American music-hall teams.

The plot deals with the outwitting of a small-town slicker's attempt to twist a simple but honourable man who is working for the good of the community. There is also a slight romantic interest. It should go down well in popular halls.

Story.—Edgar Bergen, who has just got his pilot's licence, sets out on a holiday with Charlie just before Julie, his stage partner, marries his manager, Jerry. He loses his way and comes down in the small township of Wistful Vista. There he meets Fibber Magee, chairman of the finance board, and his wife, Molly. He promises to help Fibber by getting his friend, Horton, the boss of an aeroplane company, to build an aerodrome near Wistful Vista.

An unscrupulous real estate man in a neighbouring town is trying to get Horton to buy a site there, and is also trying to acquire the Vista's land. His agent in Wistful Vista pretends friendship for Fibber, but is secretly trying to outwit him. Just as Edgar is going to Horton he gets a message that Julie is dangerously ill. He rushes to New York and finds that it was a fake telegram. He returns with Julie and discovers that Fibber has been sold out. However, Julie's resourcefulness turns the tables on Fibber's rivals and all ends well. Julie's fiancé has in the meanwhile married another girl, and Julie discovers that it is Edgar she has really loved all the while.

Acting.—Edgar Bergen and Charlie have several amusing acts, and Charlie plays a big part in the story proper.

Fibber Magee gives a very good characterisation, and so does Molly as his wife. They supply first-rate domestic humour. The supporting cast is good throughout.

Production.—The picture opens with a Bergen act over the air, and then moves to the small town, where a convincing atmosphere is quickly attained and good types are presented. Plot develops well and, although slight, holds the interest.

There are occasional slapstick sequences. One showing the eccentricities of a washing machine invented by Fibber is hilarious. There is, too, a comic aeroplane sequence which provides plenty of laughs.

Bergen's wisecracks get over well and are introduced as part of the plot and not as intrusions on it.

Points of Appeal.—Stars, bright domestic humour, and small-town characterisations.

KINEMATOGRAPH WEEKLY
December 18, 1941

"Hi, Gang!" Hits the

Sparkling presentation of one of radio's biggest and most popular teams in just the sort of show their legions of admirers want to see them . . . Terrific box-office proposition inviting foregone public approval everywhere.

Film Critic, The Daily Film Renter

Riotous comedy in terrific G.F.D. winner . . . trade shown . . . to a widely appreciative audience . . . succession of laughs . . . tip-top title and star attraction which simply cannot miss with any type of patron. . . That it will coin big money wherever shown is one of the greatest certainties in this present uncertain world . . . smash hit entertainment anywhere.

Film Critic, TODAY'S CINEMA

Elaborately presented . . . has plenty of comedy situations, diverting dialogue and tuneful songs.

Film Critic, FAULKNER'S FILM REVIEW

Popular radio stars appear in a capital show which is just what their vast public will want to see. Top-notch entertainment for all audiences. . . . A box-office natural and a real showman's proposition for any theatre.

IMPARTIAL FILM REPORT

"Hi, Gang!" makes good on the screen . . . you'll simply have to see "Hi, Gang!" to believe what a smashing success they've made of their first combined film venture . . . Bebe Daniels . . . emerges as a brilliant new musical comedy star . . . supremely funny ending . . . 100 per cent. entertainment. And what a tonic for the troops!

Reg. Whitley, Daily Mirror

"Hi, Gang!" is one of the brightest, slickest British film comedies yet.

Elspeth Grant, DAILY SKETCH

Best-ever fun-and-music show from any British studio; ingenious story, fertile gags, a breezy pace that never flags; the whole thing's an emphatic 'click' for lively Bebe, Ben and Vic.

P. L. Mannock, Daily Herald

. . . Riotously funny climax.

A. T. Borthwick, News Chronicle

. . . the Gang go over with a bang, and Bebe looks as though she's starting in pictures as a Goldwyn girl.

Ernest Betts, Sunday Express

. . . "Hi, Gang!" turns out to be a winner . . . the film version is as fresh and fast as the original and I can guarantee that listeners can become lookers with happy confidence.

Moore Raymond, Sunday Pictorial

. . . the finest British-produced musical for many a day. It is "Hi, Gang!" and something more . . . it is impossible to mention all the good things in this film, but there is never a dull moment from beginning to end.

Bernard O'Donnell, Evening Standard

"HI-GANG!"

The HIGH SPOTS

No greater Box Office Winner for 1942

"NEWS OF THE WORLD"

A slick, fast, funny picture—with all the laughs and amusement you could want in a month of Hi-Gang Sundays.

Eric Bennett, Sunday Chronicle

Terrific British comedy—one of the best yet . . . grand, rollicking fun for the whole family, score Nine points out of ten.

Norah Alexander, SUNDAY PICTORIAL

Bebe, Ben and Vic reach a new Hi—to the betterment of British comedy films they have ganged up on a gag-ridden, 100 m.p.h. picture . . .

Jonah Barrington, Daily Express

Hi Gangsters . . . still funnier on the screen . . . one of the best comedies made by a British studio for a long time . . . hilarious climax . . . quick-fire action, comic invention, and capital songs.

A. E. Wilson, The Star

Comedy with a sound plot . . . grand sequences . .

Ian Coster, Evening Standard

. . Swift spontaneity . . . catchy songs . . . likely to make itself fresh friends.

Film Critic, THE [illegible] TIMES

TOP LINERS REVIVED BY RENOWN

Offsetting Fears of Feature Shortage

IN consideration of the trend of feeling of kinema patrons, James G. Minter, of Renown, announces that his company has adopted a definite policy of the reissue of big pictures. He has acquired for reissue eight of the biggest presentations made by Gaumont British, featuring, among other box-office stars, Charles Boyer, Will Hay, the Crazy Gang, Jack Hulbert, Cicely Courtneidge and Danielle Darrieux.

The films which have been acquired were produced by that company on a tremendously lavish scale, and each film was an acclaimed success at the box-office on its first release.

With the anticipated shortage of first feature productions since the advent of America into the war, there is little doubt that pictures of the calibre which Renown have acquired will be of immense value to the exhibitor, and as each one of them is a top liner, Mr. Minter is assured they will unquestionably be snatched up by all enterprising and shrewd exhibitors in the country.

New Policy

The public is continually demanding the revival of big pictures rather than seeing ordinary programme pictures, and Renown has decided to cater for this immense public.

In addition to the G.-B. pictures, Renown have acquired that epic of French films, "Mayerling," which features Charles Boyer and Danielle Darrieux, and this picture is once more being presented in the West End, where it is now screening. Although it has already totalled a year's run in the West End, it is once more breaking all records on its screening.

Four for Immediate Release

The first of the new films acquired to be presented will be the big Will Hay success, "Good Morning, Boys," which was one of the first of Will Hay's characterisations of Dr. Twistem and his college, St. Michaels. Little need be said of this story, which is well known, and was a tremendously successful comedy.

Another big revival which was also immensely successful is "King Solomon's Mines," based on Rider Haggard's immortal story of adventure, and featuring Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Roland Young, Paul Robeson and Anna Lee.

Its romantic appeal is unquestionable, it is stated. It received nine marks C.E.A., and it is considered that this film will be one of the biggest winners upon its revival.

A picture of great topical interest to-day is the film, "Sabotage," featuring John Loder, Sylvia Sidney and Oscar Homolka. Its gripping story will have appeal to all audiences. Little need be told of the story, as everyone knows well the tremendous strength and power of this film story as it is put on the screen.

Perhaps even more timely is the revival of "The Great Barrier," featuring Richard Arlen and Lilli Palmer. This is a story of Canada, and of the terrific geographical difficulties that the Canadians have overcome to make the country such a powerful bulwark in the defences of the British Empire. The film is inspiring and vital, and will unquestionably be well received.

More to Come

At a subsequent date, Renown are to present a further four G.-B. pictures. Heading the list of these will be the Crazy Gang in "O.K. for Sound." The Crazy Gang is without doubt one of the finest comedy teams on the screen, and little need be said of their appeal to all audiences, and exhibitors would be well advised to bear this revival in mind on its release in the near future.

Another great film of light interest is "Take My Tip," featuring Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge, who bring once more their humour and gaiety to the screen to make brilliant light entertainment for all audiences.

A further revival of patriotic appeal will be "O.H.M.S.," featuring John Mills, Wallace Ford and Anna Lee. This is a story of an American who joins the British Army in order to escape a murder "rap," and loses his life in the defence of the British Empire. With the co-operation between the United States and Britain to-day, nothing could be more inspiring and of more appeal to all audiences than this brilliantly produced picture.

Finally, Renown are to present George Arliss in "His Lordship," one of the most popular rôles of this brilliant character actor.

New British Productions

The British production, "Escape to Justice," is now in the second week of its shooting, and the preliminary reports from the first rushes of the film are extremely satisfactory. This picture, which is the first of Renown's new programme of British productions, will be Trade shown early in the New Year. Kent Stevenson, as the Nazi spy who is caught by the brilliant work of the British Secret Service, gives a very convincing portrayal, and it certainly seems as if this picture will raise to stardom an actor who has already played many character parts in British productions. Kent Stevenson, of course, is widely known as a broadcaster for the whole of North America on the B.B.C. Overseas Service, and his voice is well known to all kinemagoers owing to the great number of commentaries he has done on British shorts.

This exhibitors' quota production is being produced and personally directed for Piccadilly Productions by C. Pattinson-Knight, who was released by the Army authorities especially to make this film.

Subsequent to the production of "Escape to Justice," Renown proposes to go ahead with a comedy picture which will feature a well-known stage and radio star, and a full announcement of the plans and artistes will be made very shortly.

A Guaranteed Product

During 1942 Renown will be bringing to the screen several new productions, and are continuing their policy of presenting big box-office revivals for the exhibitor. Every picture which this company will produce or distribute in the future, states James G. Minter, will be a big feature picture, and capable of being played as a top liner in any theatre to any audiences. With such promise of product of this nature, there is no doubt that Renown are certainly moving ahead during the very difficult times through which the Industry is passing, and exhibitors will watch with interest the company's progress.

Jack M. Phillips, the sales manager of Renown Pictures, welcomes all inquiries on this new product.

Continued at foot of column 3

J. G. MINTER

FILM STARS IN YORK

A total of £642 5s. 6d. was raised in aid of the Red Cross Russian Relief Fund by a concert at the Opera House and Empire, York, in which famous British stars of stage, screen and radio appeared at two performances. Laurence Olivier, who had been granted special leave for the occasion, took part in the programme with his wife, Vivien Leigh. Ivy St. Helier gave various characterisations, Evelyn Laye, Leslie Banks, Ursula Jeans, Roger Livesay and Nat Gonella (who was in uniform) and the dance band of the 6th Training Pioneer Corps also took part.

Llandudno Sunday Let Down

Large crowds of people assembled outside the Palladium, Llandudno, for a "special service with a Sunday film programme" that actually did not take place, though permission had been granted by the Caernarvonshire Stage Plays Committee.

Reg. Halstead, the manager, had to face the clamour of people and regretfully explain that neither the films nor the promoter of the event had arrived. As for the evening's arrangements he knew nothing at all about them, apart from the fact that the Palladium had been let for the purpose.

S.O. QUEUES AND OBSTRUCTION

With a view to preventing highways obstruction, Lichfield Corporation is to call the attention of the police to their queues outside the Lido and Regal on Sunday evenings.

Richard Vernon, producer of British National's THESE OUR STRANGERS, looks on while Shirley Lenner, Angela Glynne and Eleanor Hallum study the script. Lance Comfort is directing.

M. OF I. OFFICIAL LIBELLED

Kinema Man Sent to Prison

For publishing defamatory libels concerning a local Ministry of Labour official, Anderson Millar-Dick, formerly well known in local kinema and theatre circles, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment at Birmingham Assizes last week. Millar-Dick, who is 33, pleaded guilty, and Maurice Healy, K.C., prosecuting, explained that the libels were contained in letters and a telegram sent to a theatrical producer. The gist of them was that exemption from National Service could be obtained through the official concerned in the case at the price of £20. The authorities, however, were satisfied there never could have been any suggestion against his integrity or honour. Through his counsel (A. R. Churchill), Millar-Dick apologised and admitted there was not the slightest justification for the allegations.

AN UNLICENSED KINEMA

Operating Firm Fined £5

Cornwall Kinemas, Ltd., were fined £5 for running a kinema on unlicensed premises between October, 1940, and October of this year. They were also fined 5s. for each day it was continued after police inspection until a provisional licence was obtained.

In the evidence it was explained that the firm applied for a licence to be sent to him and enclosed the fee of £1. Repeated applications for the licence were made, but the owner was told that he could not have it until the buildings were found to comply with Home Office regulations. Meanwhile he kept the kinema open. On October 18 last, when the police went to inspect the premises they found that the director, Geoffrey Taylor, had not obtained the licence.

Mr. Taylor said he was under the impression that the authorities knew the circumstances under which the kinema was being run. Now he had a provisional licence.

"WHAT THE POLICEMAN SAID" IS IGNORED

Xmas Day at Burnley

In spite of police objections, permission to open on Christmas Day during present circumstances has been granted to all Burnley (Lancs) kinemas.

The Chief Constable (H. Barnes), objecting to the application, said he would always hold that there was no need for the kinemas to be open on Christmas Day.

Other applications granted were for matinées on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Christmas week and the following week at the Victoria and Palace theatres.

NO CONTINENTAL SUNDAY

Bridgend Prophet of Disaster

The Bridgend District Council decided last Thursday, by a majority vote of three, following a long and stormy discussion, to apply for powers to sanction the opening of kinemas on Sunday.

Coun. V. Merchant, leading the opponents of the resolution, said they did not want a Continental Sunday in Bridgend. The nations of the world, who had ignored the observance of the Sabbath, had all been overtaken by disaster, and the opening of their kinemas on a Sunday would be a retrograde step in the history of the town. They had lived until 1941 without Sunday opening and the kinemas had been with them for 20 years.

Coun. Field was of the opinion that Sunday opening would be an amenity that would help Christianity rather than injure it.

ALLIES LUNCHEON OF GLASGOW'S CINEMA CLUB

Rationing Stops Scottish Trade Ball

LAST Friday afternoon the usual monthly luncheon was held. Once again, it was Ladies' Day, and another undoubted success success is to be recorded. The Ladies' Committee had done their work well, and there was an attendance of 100 members and friends, under the chairmanship of G. W. Beveridge.

It was an Allies' Luncheon, and representatives of our Allies were present as guests of honour. Those included R. M. Whitelaw, Dean of the Consular Corps in Glasgow; Parker H. Burhman, American Consul; W. Kolankowski, Polish Consul in Glasgow; L. Offerdahl, Consul for Norway; Sir Thomas Dunlop, Consul for Yugoslavia; Louis Blair, Consul for Greece.

In addition, the Club entertained a party of wounded Service boys and nurses from Stobhill Hospital.

In welcoming the guests, the president referred to the choice of guests whom the Ladies' Committee had been able to bring to the luncheon and how delighted the Club were to have the privilege of honouring the representatives of our Allies. The American Consul replied in a brief speech, thanking the Club for their hospitality, and emphasised how from every point of view the entire future of the English-speaking world depended on the outcome of the struggle we are now engaged upon.

Splendid entertainment was rendered by Miss Peggy Maxwell, Billy Bowers and Tom F. Moss, while an orchestra under the direction of Mr. Smith played during the luncheon. Gus Bostock suitably voiced the thanks of the Club to the guests for their attendance, also to the artistes who had come at very short notice.

Before closing, R. M. Whitelaw proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman.

No Scottish Ball This Year

At the last meeting of the Executive of the Cinema Club it was unanimously decided that, owing to the severe food restrictions and to the prevailing conditions generally, it would be inadvisable to run the Cinema Ball as usual, and it was unanimously agreed that the question of any future similar ball be deferred meantime until conditions were more normal. This, of course, will be put to the members at the next luncheon for confirmation.

The usual monthly meeting of the Scottish Branch C.E.A. took place yesterday (Wednesday) in Green's Playhouse, as usual. Full report will appear in next week's KINE.

Charity at Anniesland

Manager Threipland, of the Ascot, has been enlisting the help of his patrons to raise enough money to buy an ambulance for the Knightswood First Aid Post, and every night last week was Ambulance Night. Collections were made, chocolates, cigarettes, etc., were auctioned, and last Sunday evening the grand finale was staged with a splendid concert which starred Sir Harry Lauder. As a result the ambulance looks like being on the road before very long.

Ex-Manager Ill

His many friends will regret to hear that Roy Graham, one-time manager of the Ascot, Glasgow, who has been in the Merchant Service for the past eight months, has been taken ill on his return home, and his return to the Service is indefinitely postponed. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Roy.

Cinema Sunday

Last Sunday evening saw the inauguration of another season of Cinema Sundays in Glasgow. As last year, this will be spread over ten Sundays—two this month, three in January, four in February, finishing the last Sunday in March. Each Sunday one city house and one suburban house will be open, and it is hoped that last year's record total of £6,000 will be again reached, if not surpassed.

Variety Show for Charity

Last Sunday evening a Garrison Theatre was given in Partick Picture House in aid of Civil Defence Wardens' Service No. 24 Ward (Partick West) Ambulance Fund. From a packed house a handsome sum will be available.

Manageress at the Florida

Last week Miss Lily Watt was appointed manageress of the Florida, King's Park, Glasgow, the first woman manageress in the Gaumont-British Scottish circuit. Miss Watt has been gaining experience by assisting George Pain, at The Picture House, for some time, and now returns to the house where she started her kinema career as cashier nine years ago.

M. of I. Shorts

Last Friday morning, at a M. of I. private show in the Regent, Glasgow, some very interesting films were shown, including "Naval Operations," "A Letter from Home," "The Empire's New Armies" and "The R.A.F. in Action." Those will be shown in all kinemas shortly.

PALS IN THE FORCES

Fellow Patrons' Christmas Gifts

Some 430 patrons of the Majestic, Cradley Heath, now serving with the Forces will be the recipients of Christmas gifts from the management and patrons of their favourite home kinema. Manager W. Sykes and his staff of the Majestic are to be congratulated upon their efforts in raising £136 for this purpose.

"HI, GANG!" SET FOR NEW-YEAR RELEASE

Sequel to Be Made

OUTSTANDING G.F.D. OFFERING

FOLLOWING the enormous success of "Hi, Gang!" at the New Gallery, Gainsborough Pictures have scheduled a "sequel," to be called "Hi Gang Rides Again," with Bebe Daniels, Vic Oliver and Ben Lyon starred.

Bebe Daniels as she appears in the Gainsborough production of HI, GANG! which G.F.D. will release on December 29

"Hi, Gang!" has been a lucky show, right from the start, when Bebe, Ben and Vic decided to pool their talents to do a weekl broadcast—embarked upon a six-week Look ing and then played every Sunday night for a year, non-stop. Now, of course, the broadcast "Hi, Gang!" is on the air again, an better than ever.

All this is extremely valuable publicity for the film, and for the promised sequel, for people will definitely want to see their three favourites "in person" on the screen, and they will not be disappointed

Critics Enthuse

Trade and national Press critics have given the picture an enthusiastic send-off. The tunes, gags and stars having been given tremendously glowing notices. The "invasion" climax has tickled the popular palate in no uncertain fashion, coming, as it does, at the end of a grand entertainment packed with good things from the word go, and setting the seal on a film in which fertility of humorous invention is one of the keynotes.

The Gainsborough version of "Hi, Gang!" will be released by General Film Distributors, Ltd., on Monday, December 29, and should prove ideal entertainment for the season, especially in these hard days of war.

Abetting the Daniels-Oliver-Lyon team are Sam Browne, the Greene Sisters, Jay Wilbur and His Band, Moore Marriott, Graham Moffatt, Georgina McKinnon, Maurice Rhodes, Percy Parsons, Diana Beaumont, Jacques Brown, Mavis Villiers and Felix Aylmer.

Marcel Varnel was responsible for the direction, Edward Black produced, and the film was made at the Islington Studios under the production sponsorship of Maurice Ostrer.

R.A.F. Highlight

One of the highlights of the film is the "Hi, Gang!" show staged in an R.A.F. hangar, with Vic putting over wisecracks as "Peep Keyhole," Ben doing a polished job as M.C., and Bebe dispensing charm and song with all her facile skill. In this sequence the Greene Sisters, Sam Browne, and Jay Wilbur and His Band also co-operate, to the general satisfaction.

Another capital interlude is the dream experienced by Vic and Ben when they inhale too much oxygen while flying from the United States to England in a ferry bomber. Ben emerges in this episode as King Herod, Bebe is seen as Salome, and Vic loses his head, which is served up on a charger, decapitated, but still talking back.

The Marriott-Moffatt team, who have been seen in so many Gainsborough laughter shows, are in excellent form in "Hi, Gang!" the corpulent youngster being seen as a fake "evacuee" taken up by Vic Oliver as a radio stunt, and old man Harbottle playing his aged uncle.

The two get mistaken for nobility when they tell the American listeners-in that they hail from the Castle at Amersham—publichouse—but the credulous accept them as real live "blue blood" from Amersham Castle.

Rival Commentators

A good deal of fun in the early reels is born of the perpetual rivalry between Bebe and Ben, who appear as radio commentators working for opposition firms. When Bebe decides to adopt an evacuee for a publicity gag, and brings home books on the care of the young, Ben not unnaturally imagines he is about to become a proud father. This situation leads to a terrific amount of hearty fun, with Oliver helping to keep the joke at peak capacity. This same sequence, incidentally, permits the introduction of a first-rate song, "My Son," by the Sherwin-Guest combination.

Other numbers include "Hi, Gang!" "I'm Singing to a Million," "They Call Me Sal," "We Chose the Air Force," and "It's a Small World." Manning Sherwin and Val Guest were responsible for the first four, while the last-named is by George Posford and Harold Purcell.

"Hi, Gang!" is all set for a phenomenally popular release season, and the "sequel" will be eagerly awaited.

Continued at foot of column 1

THE KINEMA CALLS TO YOUTH

London's Recruits for the A.T.C.

A NUMBER of London managers seized on the screening of M. of I. short film, "Venture Adventure," as an opportunity to stimulate recruiting for the A.T.C. by various additional means.

At the Edgware Road Odeon, Derek Norris had cadets of the Paddington Squadron on duty in the hall throughout the week, with aerial equipment of various kinds to stimulate interest. On Monday the Mayor of Paddington attended to lend civic support, and on Thursday Squadron-Leader Paul Bennett, V.C., M.C., made an appeal to the youth of the neighbourhood.

Squadron-Leader Bennett also addressed the audiences from the stage of the Edgware Road Grand on Tuesday, where manager Jimmy Smith also had a bunch of cadets on view, two of whom supplemented the officer's remarks.

Willesden

The Mayor of Willesden spoke to the boys of the district each night after the screening of the picture at the Harlesden Odeon, where manager Jack Sackier had A.T.C. lads on duty throughout the week, with a recruiting table in the foyer. He announced this specially by means of a 2-line mention near the foot of his advert. in the local paper.

Brixton

Cadets were on duty in the foyer of the Brixton Astoria, where manager Edward Ball (who is on the Mayor's committee) stimulated recruiting for the town's fifth squadron by having bomber pilots in attendance on three days to speak of the work of the A.T.C.

Hendon

At Hendon Odeon Mark Freeman introduced a note of novelty into his effort by arranging for a 6-minutes display of physical training by cadets on the stage. He rehearsed the boys himself, and increased the interest of their "jerks" by varying the normal routine so as to include stage "tricks" with a strong visual appeal. Mr. Freeman, by the way, has been invited to become an officer of the A.T.C. in order to train the lads.

Muswell Hill

Norman Hope-Bell put over his first stage show since his recent appointment to the management of the Muswell Hill Odeon by having eight A.T.C. cadets under their N.C.O. parade before the footlights at the conclusion of the screening. Flying Officer H. W. Piper, C.O. of the 1825 Squadron and liaison officer at an aerodrome, introduced one of the lads, who made an impromptu appeal through the mike., extolling the interest and health-giving nature of the training. Both the film and the subsequent stage ceremony evoked applause from packed audiences, and Mr. Piper told me that recruits had been secured by this simple appeal, in addition to the enlisting of a London University B.Sc., who volunteered to train the lads in technical subjects. Tribute was paid to the Odeon company and Mr. Hope-Bell for their aid.

A scene from the P.R.C. attraction DANGEROUS LADY, starring Neil Hamilton and Jane Storey, shortly to be Trade shown by Pathe

BETTE BACK AT BURBANK

RESUMES WORK ON "THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER"

HER nose sufficiently healed to permit her to resume work on "The Man Who Came to Dinner," Bette Davis has returned from her eastern farm home and the picture has again gone before the cameras at Warner Bros. Her nose injury was received when she was bitten several weeks ago by a friend's dog.

With Miss Davis in the scenes still to be filmed for the screen version of the Kaufman-Hart comedy are Monty Woolley, Billie Burke, Richard Travis, Grant Mitchell, George Barbier and Ann Sheridan. Miss Sheridan is co-starred with Bette Davis and Monty Woolley.

"In This Our Life"

In her next picture, "In This Our Life," film version of the Ellen Glasgow best-seller, George Brent and Dennis Morgan have been signed to play opposite Bette Davis and Olivia de Havilland. Other luminaries in an all-star cast will include Charles Coburn, Billie Burke and Donald Crisp. The picture will be directed by John Huston.

Herbert in Triple Role

Hugh Herbert will play three roles in his new Universal picture, "Man or Mouse." He will be seen as a befuddled candidate going in for a mayoral election: his father, and his great-grandfather.

John Fulton, trick camera expert, will repeat his famous "Invisible Man" wizardry by handling the exposures on Herbert's triple role.

Harold Young is directing. Tom Brown Peggy Moran, Guy Kibbee, Gus Schilling and Edgar Kennedy are also in the cast.

Comedian Breaks Ribs

"Rib-tickling" is an adjective frequently applied to comedians, but this paragraph makes news because a funster has actually broken two of his ribs while appearing in a screen comedy.

The victim is Lou Costello, corpulent member of the famous Abbott and Costello combination. Costello, currently working on the Universal film, "Keep 'Em Flying," was on location at the famous Cal-Aero Training Field when he was knocked to the ground by the wing of a plane that was being taxied across the tarmac for use in the picture.

By rearranging his schedule, Arthur Lubin, the director, was able to "shoot round" the injured comedian, and save a lengthy hold-up.

Martha Raye, Carol (This Woman is Mine) Bruce, William Gargan and Dick Foran are prominently featured. Costello, who suffered two broken ribs, is now back at work, little the worse for his experience.

"50,000,000 Nickels"

Harriet Hilliard and Ken Murray have the romantic leads in the new Universal picture, "50,000,000 Nickels," now in production under the direction of Harold Young.

Don Douglas and Iris Adrian have secondary leads, with Marjorie Gateson featured in a prominent character role. Milt Herth's Radio Orchestra is looking after the musical side of the production.

KINE PATRONS ADOPT MOTOR LAUNCH

One of the naval motor launches visited Winsford, Cheshire, during the successful Warship Week just concluded in which over £90,000 was raised, and so much interest did it arouse that the management of the Palace Cinema, Winsford, is making itself responsible for supplying the launch with books and games for the duration. The first consignment of books has already been delivered.

J. B. Binmore, proprietor, plans to send regular consignments of gifts and also a bumper parcel to the men for Christmas.

Monogram Sales Top Last Year's Figures

W. J. GELL'S STATEMENT

Encouraging indeed is the financial report received from Monogram, states W. J. Gell, managing director of Pathé. At the annual meeting of the board of directors at the Monogram studios in Hollywood, it was announced that the sales to-day are over $400,000 in excess of last year's for the same period.

It was also announced that an increase in production budgets has been authorised for a group of eight outstanding pictures for the current programme. The films for the augmented budgets include "Boy of Mine," starring John Boles, Matt Taylor's American magazine short story; "Under Northern Lights," introducing "At Dawning" and "The Land of the Sky Blue Waters," by Charles Wakefield Cadman, to which Monogram owns motion picture rights; four productions starring the East Side Kids with a top-ranking adult star to be featured in each; Jack London's story, "Trail of the Wolf"; "Navy Bound," based on Talbot Josselyn's story originally published in Collier's Magazine.

The new board of directors is made up as follows: W. Ray Johnston, Trem Carr, Samuel Broidy, Herman Rifkin, John W. Mangham, Howard Stubbins, William Hurlbut, Charles Trampe, Alton A. Brody.

W. Ray Johnston announced that a large loan had been closed on his visit to New York recently.

The company's board of directors is considering the production of a big special in England, provided a top-ranking star can be secured.

"The Miracle Kid"

Tom Neal and Carol Hughes have been assigned the top rôles in the P.R.C. production, "The Miracle Kid," a prize fight yarn, which goes before the cameras this week, directed by William Beaudine.

Others cast include Vicki Lester, Betty Blythe, Alex Callam, Ben Taggart, Frank Otto, Thornton Edwards, Larry McGrath and Larry Grey.

"Riot Squad"

The Monogram police drama, "Riot Squad," will feature Richard Cromwell, John Miljan, Jack C. Smith and M-G-M.'s child actress, Mary Ruth, for important rôles. Edward Finney is directing.

George Raft and Marlene Dietrich in MAN POWER, also starring Edward G. Robinson, which Warner will shortly Trade show

RICHARDSON TO STAR FOR SOSKIN

Leave to Make First War Film

"THE DAY WILL DAWN"

AFTER prolonged negotiations, Paul Soskin has scooped Ralph Richardson to star in "The Day Will Dawn," and he has been granted special leave from the Fleet Air Arm, in which he is serving as a Lt.-Commander. He therefore heads the 100-name cast and plays the rôle of Lockwood, ace Fleet Street war correspondent, his first film rôle since joining the Services nearly two years ago.

The scene was the lounge and bar of the hotel in Oslo, with American journalists, Norwegians, English visitors and German "tourists" making up the crowd, with more than a hundred extras on the huge set. Richardson has been waiting nearly two hours for Hugh Williams, with the unfortunate job of having to tell him that he has been fired by his paper for missing scoop stories, without knowing that Williams has already been in trouble. Even now, Williams is under close observation by the Gestapo, by whom he is eventually trapped. Lockwood is arranged and unimpressed by Colin's (Williams') seemingly silly excuses, and leaves in a bad mood to fly back to London, while Colin curses the fates that always seem to land him in trouble.

Rescue of Hostages

Another important sequence on which shooting took place for two days was the prison scene, the action covering the rescue of Karin (Deborah Kerr) and Colin with the Norwegian hostages by the British troops, although the first batch of innocent hostages have been shot for hiding Colin. This is said to be one of the most moving and dramatic sequences in the film.

All Forces in Film

Then the departure of Colin by bomber for Norway, where he is to be dropped by parachute on the most dangerous mission he has undertaken, was shot, and some magnificent scenes of the bomber taking off were recorded. This Air Force sequence completes the inclusion of all the Services in Paul Soskin's production, with the Army and Navy already high-lighted in several important sequences.

Soskin further creates a record for the biggest cast, with a hundred name players in "The Day Will Dawn," headed by Ralph Richardson, Deborah Kerr, Hugh Williams, Griffiths Jones, Francis L. Sullivan, to name a few.

Deborah Kerr with Hugh Williams in a scene from the new Paul Soskin film THE DAY WILL DAWN, now being made at Denham

MINE DODGING BY ASKEY

Comedy Scenes at Shepherds Bush

FOR several comedy scenes in the Gainsborough picture "Back Room Boy," the unit moved over from Islington to Shepherds Bush. The "invaders," headed by director Herbert Mason, occupied the second largest stage, set up the R.P. apparatus and with the aid of some very good "plates" proceeded to blow up a mine-field, sink a submarine and generally hamper the enemy's activities.

The hilarious comedy scenes which take place towards the end of the film are the work of Arthur Askey and his two stooges, Moore Marriott and Graham Moffatt, who, while pursuing the enemy raiding the B.B.C. meteorologist Askey, accidentally set off a land mine. This type of incident is partly difficult to accomplish when using back projection because the timing has to be perfect, otherwise the plate has to be rewound and projected again. Foreground smoke, etc., are also required, and generally the work is very arduous for both actors and crew.

By the end of the day all three actors were exhausted, with falling down every time a charge exploded and inhaling smoke, climbing up and down on the moving platform and synchronising dialogue to action.

Joyce Howard portrays Askey's fiancée, who becomes fed up with his sudden departures, his long absences, and broken dates, resulting from his B.B.C. duties, in playing her first comedy rôle. She demands that he chooses between her and the B.B.C. Miss Howard is also playing at Welwyn in the Argyle production of the "Night Has Eyes."

"Back Room Boy" will complete within the next week. Ted Black is producing with Maurice Ostrer in charge of production.

HAY BALES OUT

Ealing Parachute Fun

By luck, I happened on a very funny scene last Friday at Ealing.

Basil Dearden, co-directing with star Will Hay, had erected a trestle stage on which was most of the unit. A British Service plane was the set, and in the cockpit was Mr. Hay, very nervous at the prospect of being baled out over Germany.

Egged on by pilot and observer, he opened the side door, to be greeted by a fierce tornado of air and exhaust vapours, generously furnished by an enthusiastic crew of wind-machinists below. When the comedian took the plunge after much verbal "stalling," it was a comfort to know of a cosy mattress to take the fall.

The story of "The Goose Steps Out" gives Hay the rôle of a schoolmaster, the "double" of a captured Nazi spy, packed off to do British espionage work in the Fatherland. He finds himself masquerading as a professor in a German University, teaching young Huns.

S. C. Balcon, associate producer, is very pleased with the first week's progress. E. Palmer, C. Cooney and L. Baines are in charge of photography. Supporting cast includes Charles Hawtrey, Peter Croft, John Williams, Julien Mitchell, Peter Ustinov, Barry Norse and Frank Pettingell.

P. L. M.

BRITISH NATIONAL'S TWO SUBJECTS

Lance Comfort is on his second week at the Rock Studios on "These Our Strangers," by Adrian Arlington. In addition to numerous child players, Comfort has five newcomers to the screen in Margaret McGrath, Felicity Watt, Leslie Adams, Shirley Lenner and Henry Fowler. Margaret McGrath is a lovely blonde from London's Windmill Theatre. For four years she has appeared in continuous revue and never missed a performance all through the blitz, when the Windmill was the only London theatre to remain open.

One night, while attempting to rescue some horses from a burning stable at the height of the blitz, she was injured and spent many weeks in hospital. Yet, when it came to appearing before a camera, Margaret was the most nervous of the five. The long waits between "takes" worry her, which is understandable, because for the last few years she has been used to five shows a day with about twenty changes each day.

Leslie and Elisabeth Hiscott are almost ready to start on a new subject for British National, tentatively titled "Rendezvous for Convoy." The story is by Michael Barringer who wrote "Seventh Survivor," and concerns sabotage and fifth columnists. The picture will probably be made at the Teddington Studios as British National have plans for a new subject to go on the floor at the Rock Studios about this date.

A.T.A. AT DENHAM

Anna Neagle and Robert Newton have been mainly engaged in A.T.A. sequences in the Amy Johnson-Jim Mollison film which is now in its seventh week at Denham Studios under the direction of Herbert Wilcox.

Schneider Trophy Celebration

"FIRST OF THE FEW"

HIGHLIGHT of Leslie Howard's recent activities at Denham was the ball held near Southampton on the occasion of the British Schneider Trophy win in 1929.

The function brought all the principal members of the cast together—co-stars Howard and Niven, Derek de Marney, Rosamund John and Anne Firth. It also introduced the late Lady Houston, an imposing figure in royal blue, strikingly played by Toni Edgar Bruce. A big call of smart extras crowded the ballroom.

A notable feature of art director Paul Sherriff's elegant set was a magnificent tapestry effect by scenic artist Fred Bellan, who worked solo on this 18 ft. by 30 ft. canvas from his own designs.

The Schneider Trophy was on view in the ballroom, and between shots an unobtrusive looking man was observed closely studying it. A member of Howard's unit, thinking he would help the visitor, pointed out that instead of being a studio replica, the exhibit was the actual Schneider Trophy lent by the Royal Aero Club. "I know," the visitor disarmingly replied. "I won it, once." It was H. C. Baird, who scored a win for Britain at Naples in 1922 with a Supermarine Napier Flying Boat. Baird, former test pilot of Mitchell's machine, is taking a keen interest in "The First of the Few."

Prior to the ballroom scene, Leslie Howard made some preliminary shots with Mitchell's superb aircraft, the famous Supermarine S.6.

Atlantic Ferry Service Scenes

"FLYING FORTRESS" CONCLUDING

NOW in its eleventh week at Teddington, Warner's British production of "Flying Fortress," directed by Walter Forde, is working on another Atlantic Ferry headquarters scenes. This new phase of the picture deals with the important part of the ferry service, that of directing and controlling the arrival of planes at the ferry 'drome from all parts of Canada and U.S., and their subsequent departure to Britain.

A complete replica of the control tower was built on the main stage, a set having a surprising amount of detail, copied from photographs of the actual tower at the secret airfield in Canada. From this tower, by radio, 'phone and loud speaker, instructions are given to both ground crews and pilots.

For the rôle of controller, Forde has engaged the well-known radio commentator Jerry Wilmot, who, although it was his first rôle in front of the lens as an actor, portrayed his rôle with great ability. Of the many set-ups made during the day, surprisingly enough his best was in a small scene before broadcasting to the planes, and Forde predicts a future for him in screen rôles.

Jerry Wilmot is the B.B.C. commentator on American affairs, and his name is now added to the grand total of 71 speaking parts in the film—the largest ensemble of actors ever in a Warner British picture. I *would* like to know how they will get them all on the credit titles, and they inform me there are still more to join the cast, which is headed by Richard Greene and Carla Lehmann.

"Flying Fortress" is due to complete around December 22, and will have a big party to commemorate Warner's most important British production. Other important feature players are Betty Stockfield and Donald Stewart. Details are now at hand concerning the outstanding stratosphere shots, which were shot by both R.A.F. and studio cameramen. These are unique, as they are the first pictures ever taken from a stratosphere flyer and will be hailed as a technical triumph.

JACK BUCHANAN INSTALS RCA AT RIVERSIDE

Jack Buchanan, who controls Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, has become a "war time" recorder licensee of RCA Photophone, Ltd., on long-term basis.

Production has been more or less continuous since he became associated with the business a couple of years ago, and, a consistent believer in the RCA sound system, he has now installed two of the very latest recorder channels. These enable recording and re-recording to be carried out simultaneously, as the new type recorders incorporate electronic mixing.

The recording equipment is extremely flexible, as either channel can be switched at a moment's notice to each of the two sound stages, to the re-recording theatre equipment, or for special scoring purposes. In addition to this, the installation work has been carried out in such a manner that RCA mobile units may be used without any inconvenience on the "plug-in" system.

The Mixing System

The introduction of "Electronic" mixing has already proved a noteworthy addition to High Fidelity sound, as important as the change-over from white light to "ultra-violet" light recording.

Experience has shown that there are certain kinds of original material that have to be recorded which contain a volume range unsuitable for release in theatres. When a faithful recording of this type of material is played in the average theatre, the loud level passages are either too loud or the low level passages too low.

Not only can the intelligibility of the wide volume range material be increased owing to the smoothing out action of compression, but the average level of the reproduced sound will be raised closer to the peak level, and higher, above film and reproducing system noises.

And, of course, the overall effect of "compression" (varionic mixing), properly used, is to increase the "smoothness" of recorded dialogue.

Comprehensive frequency correction networks are incorporated with RCA re-recording console equipment, and the "electronic" amplifiers of RCA recorder channels may be used if necessary during the re-recording process.

The Mikes

The new RCA uni-directional microphones—a welcome addition to existing RCA sound pick-up unit range—recognised as standard both in America and this country, are incorporated. They may be operated at a distance from their amplifiers and are arranged for line impedances of 50 ohms and 250 ohms.

The even frequency response characteristic gives an added smoothness to dialogue recording, whilst its directive qualities allow greater freedom of movement on "sets," and also a reduction of reverberation when compared with any other conventional microphone.

"FRONT LINE KIDS"

The group of East End youngsters who are playing at games of spies and detectives in Butcher-Signet's "Front Line Kids" at Riverside studios occupied the stage to such an extent in the second week's shooting that they nearly succeeded in sidetracking from the action most of the principals. Collectively, however, they are the title-part of the film, so their leaders, played by Gerald Rex and Johnnie Singer as hotel page boys, have so far been incessantly in the picture.

Xmas-Card Setting for "Pitt"

Jack Ramsay's prop. department took a bow on Twentieth Century's "The Young Mr. Pitt" this week, for accomplishing a swift, seasonal change-over from deep winter to high summer on an impressive, Georgian manor house exterior at Lime Grove. Long experience of "snow storms" at the Bush—who has forgotten the blizzard finale to "Jew Süss" and the snowbound capers in "Turkey Time"—enabled props. men to create an 18th-century Christmas card aspect which will delight patrons.

Soap-flake Storm

Grouped in a semi-circle before the stately frontage of Lord Ackland's home, waits rendered "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen" for the benefit of his Lordship, snow swirled round their lanterns, casting pools of light in the darkness, and their ancient fiddles, flutes and "serpent" horns did melodic justice to the carol. To the window comes the yuletide guest, William Pitt, and with his host, he smiles out on the happy scene, whilst the lanterns dip and dance in the driving flakes and the choral leader doffs his tricorn hat and bows low in the snow.

There is, as usual in film studios, another side to the picture. This time it is the sight of the shooting crew peering like bandits over half-handkerchiefs swathed round about their faces as they film the scene. Salt, soap flakes and volatile Meta fuel, so excellent as "snow" are not so pleasant down throats and noses.

Change to Summer

Later, the trees regained their foliage, flowers appeared, the snow evaporated, and Freddie Young's sunlight flooded down on the lawn, with Robert Donat and Phyllis Calvert *tête-à-tête* over teacups. Children play on the grass and Mr. Pitt's carriage waits in the background to take him back to London and Downing Street. The unit remove their handkerchiefs and film the scene in comfort.

"The Young Mr. Pitt" finishes its 21st week at the Bush and should be completed by Christmas. Currently, preparations are being made for the storming of the Bastille. The reconstruction of a Royal bathe at Weymouth, for which scene a stretch of beach, breakwaters and the English Channel is needed, is scheduled for Raymond Lovell's immersion as George III.

"The Young Mr. Pitt" is being produced for Twentieth Century by Edward Black, with Maurice Ostrer in charge of production.

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The Observation Window

Meeting Valve Difficulties

THE WASTE PAPER DRIVE

The Scarcity of Spares

THE report of the C.E.A. Technical Committee on the situation in regard to amplifying and rectifying valves does not help those exhibitors whose livelihood depends upon a maintenance of supplies. The situation in regard to amplifying valves and small rectifiers for amplifier supply is less serious than in the larger sizes, since there are numerous types which are more or less interchangeable. In the case of some types, it might be necessary to replace the existing valve holders by octal type holders, to suit the valves available; this is not a difficult job.

A SOLUTION is, however, less easy in the case of arc rectifiers. The KINE. has more than once in the past suggested that the shorter life of hot-cathode valves, as compared with mercury and metal rectifiers, constituted an objection to the valve type, and present circumstances have lent added weight to this view—all of which is poor comfort to the user of such equipment.

MY colleague, R. H. Cricks, makes a suggestion which might be regarded as a last resource. Since the rectifier already embodies a transformer and either chokes or resistances, it should be quite possible to disconnect the valves and use the rest of the circuit for the supply of A.C. to the arc, provided the voltage losses of the valves were compensated for. This, he suggests, should be done merely by wiring additional chokes. These need not have a very high inductance; second-hand chokes of suitable type could no doubt be found in some electricians' stores, or for that matter could be quite easily wound by anybody with a little knowledge of A.C. theory. Remember that a certain increase in current will be necessary.

THIS suggestion, however, does not overcome the difficulties of converting D.C. arcs to A.C. operation. As the C.E.A. committee points out, a motor-driven arc must have a one-to-one feed ratio, and furthermore, as the committee fails to point out, a hand-fed arc is unlikely to be satisfactory. The suggestion that new mirrors are necessary seems however a little unjustified; whatever an optician might say on theoretical grounds, experience has shown that the ordinary arc mirror can by adjusting the position of the arc be fairly well adapted for use with the smaller A.C. carbons.

VERY little paper finds its way into the projection room, and thus the projectionist has little opportunity to do his share in the drive for saving waste paper to supply national needs. It does sometimes happen, however, that with shortened staff some duties outside the projection room are undertaken by junior members of the staff in which some form of paper collection is possible.

SO much emphasis has been laid upon the need to conserve every bit of material which might be looked upon as waste, that it may be taken as certain that every manager has seen to it that there is no mite of waste paper in the kinema that is not collected and stored to take its place in the local drive. It would not be a bad plan to paste up reminders of the continuance of the drive on special notice boards with fresh slogans every week to tickle the fancy of members of the staff.

QUITE a number of exhibitors to-day must be wishing they had taken the precaution, advocated in these columns two years ago, of building up stocks of spare accessories. Where this has been done, the situation can be met by looking still farther ahead, and when such stocks are encroached upon, to place orders which will not be fulfilled for, perhaps, months to come, but which will maintain reserves.

FIGURES were given me the other day of demands upon a certain firm of apparatus suppliers which were five or six times as great as in pre-war days. This was due to spares having been exhausted, and to the need to substitute a new type of apparatus for one which is non-procurable.

J. BENSON.

PROJECTION EQUIPMENT AT WELWYN

RCA Sound

Following acoustic treatment being carried out at the Review Theatre, at Welwyn Garden City Studios, RCA Photophone, Limited, have installed the latest de Luxe Theatre Reproducer, incorporating the well-known Rotary Stabiliser Soundheads, with Synchronous motor and latest type cellular Loud Speaker system.

Two "Simplex" rear shutter Projectors, complete with pedestal, upper film magazines and preview attachments have been installed, the projectors being specially adapted for the running of "married," also "non-combined" prints.

A Communal Feeding Centre, named the Palmadium British Restaurant, has been opened in the former dance hall adjoining the Palmadium, Palmer's Green, and is proving very popular, 500 lunches a day being served. Manager F. W. Salter is not responsible for the control of this novel adjunct to the kinema, but has been lending a friendly hand whenever possible.

FACTORS WHICH MAKE FOR IDEAL FILM PROJECTION

A Helpful American Symposium

AN endeavour has been made by the Society of Motion Picture Engineers to set out the factors which make for ideal film projection and the contributions by three members in the form of a symposium are printed in the November number of the Society's "Journal."

The papers printed are "Projection Room Equipment Requirements," "Location and Contents" and "Sound Quality."

Projection Room Essentials

The requirements set out in the first paper are, principally, adequate room for workers and equipment, steadiness of the mechanisms, suitable arc, efficient and reliable machinery, an electrical change-over device, good sound apparatus with conveniently situated controls easily distinguishable.

Cement plaster is recommended up to a height of 5 ft. from the floor, with acoustic material above, floor painted or covered with good quality linoleum. A blower for ventilation is apparently a *sine qua non*.

It will be readily realised from the foregoing that there are great divergencies in some respects from the practice in this country. The blower is here strictly taboo, while in the matter of projection ports, glass is optional in the States, but compulsory here. Tiles for walls or floors are not mentioned in the specification.

Siting the Machines

A lengthy paragraph is devoted to the placing of the projectors so that the centre line of the auditorium is midway between the two projectors. Should this be impossible, suggestions are made for curing the "keystone" effect which may arise, either by a heavy velour masking round the screen or by filing a blank aperture plate to the correct dimensions and shape.

The need to build projection room, rewind and generator room of substantial fireproof material is stressed.

Minimum Angle to Screen

The second paper, dealing with location and contents of the projection room, overlaps to a certain extent the first paper.

On the subject of location, one big requirement is that the projection angle be kept as small as possible, both laterally and vertically. It is pointed out that the depth of focus of the projection lens is taxed severely to maintain a sharply defined image over the entire screen under working conditions. The buckling of film in the projection gate, plus uneven wear of tracks and tension shows, adds to the difficulties, and if a vertical angle is added to these, screen image definition must necessarily suffer. Distortion, even in the best conditions, is unavoidable.

The Choice of a Lens

A paragraph follows on the right choice of the lens, which must have a speed of *f*/2.0, to match modern arc lamp optical systems, and be not more than five inches in length.

The lowest point of a light beam projected to the screen should have a clearance of 6 ft. 4 in. above any seating or traffic floor area in order to avoid interference by obstruction with the picture on the screen. The highest point must clear any ceiling obstruction.

Other practice, similar to our own, is access to the projection room from outside the theatre and the advisability of locating, where possible, the projection room outside the exterior wall of the theatre cube.

Heating and Fire Hazards

For heating, the placing of radiators in the ducts through which fresh air is supplied to the room is recommended: while the isolation of noise and vibration, to prevent communication to the theatre, is suggested, either by heavy shutters or by the application of acoustic material.

Fire hazards come within this section, and the provision of extinguishers is discussed and the danger of the use of water on electrical apparatus is pointed out. There is no mention in this section of the use of asbestos blankets, and a National Board of Fire Underwriters' recommendation is quoted sardonically. This suggests that in the case of fire, the projectionist should shut down the projector and arcs, operate the shutter release, leave the projection room and notify the manager. Not much of the boy on the burning deck about that!

Other Accessories

Waste receptacles suggested are a suitable container for keeping scrap film under water separate from other rubbish, and a metal container for hot carbon stubs.

Other requirements are a work bench, tools for changing carbons or making minor repairs (which should have a definite and permanent place), two good flashlamps, one of which should be in reserve, spare projector and an arc lamp, an enclosed metal cabinet for supplies and spare parts, and an interior house phone.

On the staff side, to operate a projection room with minimum fire hazard and first-class screen results requires that at least two projectionists be on duty at all times. Large theatres using more than two projectors, spotlights, effect machines, etc., must have more men in proportion to the additional equipment.

There is need, it is emphasised, for adjoining space to accommodate rectifying equipment, stripping cans, tools and test equipment, supplies of spare parts, clothes locker, work bench, with vice, etc. These should not be in the projection room proper.

The paper on sound quality and the factors affecting it mentions that in large theatres as much as 150 watts of undistorted power are used is contrasted with the 10 to 12 watts output in the early days, and the need for power to give effect to earthquake and warfare scenes is set out.

The parts played in sound reproduction by the theatre acoustics, the screen and the adjustments of the sound system are briefly outlined on lines familiar to KINE. readers.

Volume range is advised at 50 to 60 db., a frequency response of 50 to 8,000 or 10,000 cycles, high efficiency of stage speakers with proper angular distribution. There should be easy accessibility to apparatus components, adequate emergency provision, and the possibility of adding to existing apparatus to take care of future advancement.

THIS WEEK'S PROJECTION ROOM

A corner of a projection room of a R.A.F. kinema, in which sound is reproduced by Type P.G. 116 RCA High Fidelity sound apparatus

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Conducted by THE SHOWMAN

SHOWMANSHIP IN WAR TIME

A Feature Run under the Auspices of the "Kine." Company of Showmen

IN a chat with A. G. Leggo, manager of the A.B.C. Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, I learned that he has little faith in the value of shop-window cards as a means of encouraging patronage. He pointed out that distribution of them to certain shopkeepers sometimes caused unpleasantness and rivalry, which did harm to the theatre and that not many people troubled to study them. He pins his faith to "ads." in the local newspaper which, when it is a reputable and efficiently run organ, tends to be studied at leisure by the family and thus gets its message home more effectively. He remarked that the public gets to know a great deal about pictures nowadays through studying Press comments and reports, with the result that, if they want to see a particular film, they will roll up to the pay-box anyway, advertisements or no.

Mr. Leggo should know, for he has had extensive experience of the theatrical business in America and elsewhere. He is a cousin of film actor Eric Blore, and knows the business from many angles. What he wants to know at the present time is where to get staff and how to keep them!

The Fewer the More

I THINK it says a great deal for the efficiency and acumen of manager Edward Ball, of the Brixton Astoria, and his capable assistant, Claud Harold, that they are maintaining business at a satisfactory level despite the evacuation of no less than 60 per cent. of the local population and the increased activity on war work of many of the hardy residue.

Some at least of this creditable result must be set down to the fine alcove displays which Mr. Ball continues to arrange in the two inward-facing foyer spaces already mentioned in these columns. One of these, when I called, took the form of a diary open at a current page with the title of a Deanna Durbin film written against each day-space. This appropriate indication of the Durbin Week was supplemented by a well-drawn head of the little singing star.

The other device—dealing with "49th Parallel" (G.F.D.)—consisted of a row of star heads set against a typical Canadian landscape in attractive colours.

Mr. Ball has been able to arrange for the Astoria to remain open until 10.30 p.m. nightly through a neat deal with the local police, who gave consent on condition that the time of opening in the afternoon was made a little later than previously. This compromise is a credit to the good sense of both parties, and demonstrates that tactful handling of a problem will usually secure a reasonable outcome.

By 'Phone

AN excellent scheme to get over the loss of advertising through lack of posters has been evolved by Bert Smith, of the Empire, Alfreton, and I think it is best described in his own words. He writes: I want to save my sites for after the war so I am blanking them out, except for the centres. We are allowed stock quads, and my idea is to use my telephone number and get the public telephone wise. All my positions are having the following words: For vital news of the Empire programmes ring 146 (in red, white and blue).

Then I am, every Monday, using my own 'phone to all shops, hotels, etc., on the 'phone who have either quad boards or window bills and I shall give them the week's programme.

In addition, I am supplying them with small slates (actually three-ply squares, blacked for chalking). These have been made out of scrap pieces of various sizes, about 15 in. by 20 in.

All contacts in our own town will be visited on Mondays by my boys, who will chalk the programmes on. By the way, these little frames are strutted at the back to stand on counters, etc. I think if people get used to the number and everywhere possible see a large 146, they will always get a reply as we keep a watchman at all hours, and with shows often in the morning we always have service on the 'phone.

Vestibule display at the Elite, Middlesbrough. An eye catcher for BARNACLE BILL (M-G-M)

No Parallel Bars Here!

CAMPAIGN to put over the G.F.D. feature, "49th Parallel," by Allender Fryer, at the Troxy, Commercial Road, included a fine display of British and Empire flags (not forgetting a few specimens of "Old Glory"—otherwise, the Stars and Stripes) around the foyer, a battery of stills in a variety of frames and an illuminated display over the doors leading to the street. In one corner he had a terrestrial globe flanked by Union Jacks, with the title of the picture painted on it in red lettering. The general effect was a fine mixture of patriotism and showmanship which evidently pleased the "locals" greatly, for I saw many knots of people looking around at the various items before passing in or out of the hall.

In one corner there was a board referring specially to "the story of this week's M. of I. film, 'Hospital Nurses,'" which explained that the short deals with the enrolment, training and duties of this class of essential worker.

On the day of my visit Mr. Fryer was presenting a stage show of ten talented amateurs drawn from the considerable number of those who have appeared at the Troxy before. They were accompanied in their acts by Syd Kaplan and his broadcasting band, with Terence Casey at the organ, and I notice that the "cast" included, besides the usual crooner (who in this instance was an alto), a farmyard yodeller, singing driver, impressionist and conjuror (who secured the best reception). This strikes me as an unusually wide selection.

Joint Effort

THE idea is not new, but is proving exceptionally valuable in these times of poster restrictions and reduced publicity allocations. Where several circuits or affiliated halls exist within the area covered by one or more local papers those concerned are combining to insert a joint display advertisement applying to them all. This allows of more space being booked for a worthwhile display at a cost which, shared by all, is less than the price of individual insertions. As the halls are not in competition with each other no one suffers; instead, they all benefit.

Sailors Don't Care

SUCCESSFULLY tapping a new line in exploitation work—a line which has hitherto remained "unplugged" in Middlesbrough, despite its obvious profitable potentialities in this river Tees port—Reynolds Roberts, manager of the Elite, Middlesbrough, showed his ingenuity in "catering" for the large "quota" of sailors when he carried out his latest stunt.

Keeping in mind the fact that Middlesbrough is very largely a "seafaring" town, Mr. Roberts arranged a tie-up with a local seaman's outfitters for the film, "Barnacle Bill" (M-G-M), starring Wallace Beery. With the aid of a tailor's dummy borrowed from the seamen's outfitters, a display which aroused unusual interest was carried out in the kinema vestibule.

The dummy, attired in seamen's clothes similar to those worn by Wallace Beery in the film, was stretched out on a bed, a bottle of beer clutched in his hand!

Curiously enough, the dummy, dressed as it was, bore a life-like resemblance to Wallace Beery as he appeared in the film, the familiar tuft of unruly hair jutting out from underneath a black seaman's cap. In fact, the whole display bore remarkable resemblance to an actual scene in the film—where Beery is laid out on a bunk in his small fishing vessel in a drunken stupor.

Completing the tableau was a 3 ft. by 6 ft. coloured portrait of Wallace Beery, beset by stills of the film. So realistic was the "drunken" dummy in the vestibule that more than one patron was seen to examine it closely to ascertain whether or not it was real. In fact, our reporter was completely fooled, mistaking the dummy for a drunken seaman (not an uncommon sight in Middlesbrough)!

Yo-Ho-Deon

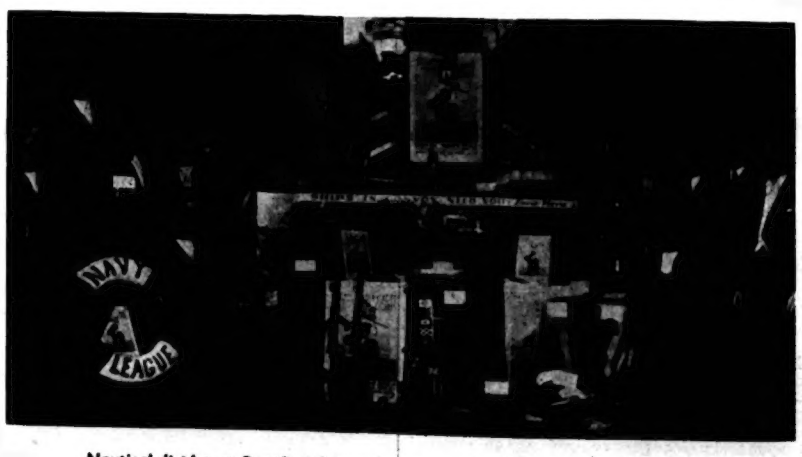
DEPTFORD is a waterside borough with a proud naval history, and it is natural that keen interest should be taken in the training of Sea Cadets to uphold the tradition. A. K. Meecher, of the local Odeon (which stands only a few minutes' walk from the place where Nelson was born), has been doing his bit to encourage the naval spirit. The screening of a M. of I. film, "Sea Cadets," gave him the chance to arouse local interest and aid the Greenwich and Rotherhithe Navy League Sea Cadet Corps in a practical way. He collected rifles, working models of capital ships, signallinng lamps, navigation instruments, a ship's bell, flags, recruiting posters and other appropriate and interesting items and put them in the foyer, where they attracted an eager crowd of lads, who revelled in a display of signalling by one of the cadets.

Prior to the screening of the film there was a five-minute fanfare of trumpets on a blue-lit stage, and a signalling demonstration, and throughout the week recruiting was carried out at the front of the theatre, over 100 entrants being enrolled.

The 21st anniversary of the Corps was celebrated at the Odeon (lent for the occasion by the circuit and Oscar Deutsch) by an Armistice Parade of the lads in blue, attended also by the A.T.C. and the Honor Oak branch of the British Legion. An inspection was carried out by Commander A. G. A. Street, R.N., and a lantern lecture by S. C. Lieut. W. Forbes-White, Corps Commanding Officer, on "The Sea is Our Life" followed.

Mr. Meecher and his staff subscribed to present the Cadets with a silver bugle in replacement of one destroyed by His Majesty's enemies in a recent assault, and Odeon patrons took a collection and provided four more copper instruments. The staff also provided a new ensign, which was dedicated at the parish church and presented by Mr. Meecher to the Corps.

If it goes on like this we shall soon hear of the Admiralty launching an H.M.S. *Odeon*!



Nautical display at Deptford Odeon during showing of M. of I. film SEA CADETS

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We need not stress the value of such an opportunity of combating the present-day paper and signwriting difficulties.

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FOR JAN. 12 RELEASES

Compiled by A. W. Owen

"MEET JOHN DOE" (Warner)

CERT. U. 11,042 ft. Reg. No. F.4525. Reviewed in KINE. October 2, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 48-sheet, one 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward Arnold.
ATMOSPHERE.—Political romantic comedy-drama of the newspaper world, a twin story to "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," in which the integrity of a down-and-out defeats the sinister ambitions of a ruthless financier.
ORGAN.—"Four Characteristic Valses" Suite, Coleridge-Taylor, No. 1 only (Ascherberg), with adaptation from the piano-solo copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on H.M.V. B.8378 by the New Light Symphony Orchestra.

"SHIPS WITH WINGS" (United Artists)

CERT. A. 9,210 ft. Reg. No. Br.Tr.4659. Reviewed in KINE. November 6, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 48-sheet, one 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—John Clements, Leslie Banks.
ATMOSPHERE.—Romantic melodrama of the Fleet Air Arm with an authentic *Ark Royal* axis, telling of a youth who leaves the Service under a cloud but pays his debt in full when his country's safety is menaced.
ORGAN.—"Royal Air Force March-Past," Walford Davies (Hawkes), with adaptation from the piano-solo copy only.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on H.M.V. B.8856 by H.M. Coldstream Guards Band.

"THE FEMININE TOUCH" (M-G-M)

CERT. A. 6,765 ft. Reg. No. F.4630. Reviewed in KINE. November 6, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 48-sheet, one 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—Rosalind Russell, Don Ameche, Kay Francis.
ATMOSPHERE.—Marital comedy, in which a college professor writes a book to prove that jealousy is a disease which can be cured, but finds that theory and reality are two entirely different things.
ORGAN.—"Jealousy," Tango Maxime, Jacob Gade (Ascherberg), with adaptation from the piano-solo copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on H.M.V. C.2861 by the Eaton Promenade Orchestra.

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS" (General F.D.)

CERT. A. 8,674 ft. Reg. No. F.4615. Reviewed in KINE. October 2, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—Irene Dunne, Robert Montgomery.
ATMOSPHERE.—Inconsequential marital comedy concerning an unsophisticated young woman who mistakes an incident for real romance and allows "unfinished business" to unsettle her early married life, with her fugitive knight-errant's brother.
ORGAN.—"The Butterfly," Bendix (Bosworth), with adaptation from the orchestral piano-conductor copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on Bosworth B... 1091 by the London Concert Orchestra.

"THE PARSON OF PARAMINT" (Paramount)

CERT. A. 7,564 ft. Reg. No. F.4484. Reviewed in KINE. September 11, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—Charles Ruggles, Ellen Drew.

FOR JANUARY 19 RELEASES

"LADY FROM LOUISIANA" (British Lion)

CERT. A. 7,603 ft. Reg. No. F.4399. Reviewed in KINE. August 14, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—John Wayne, Ona Munson, Henry Stephenson.
ATMOSPHERE.—Romantic melodrama with a New Orleans background, in which a young lawyer cleans up a band of crooked lottery organisers and their thugs. There is a tense court sequence and a terrific flood climax.
ORGAN.—"La Gazza Ladra" Overture, Rossini (Hawkes), with adaptation from the orchestral piano-conductor copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on Columbia L.X.353 by Sir H. Harty and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

"WILD GEESE CALLING" (20th Century-Fox)

CERT. A. 6,593 ft. Reg. No. F.4576. Reviewed in KINE. October 9, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 48-sheet, one 12-sheet, one 6-sheet
STARS.—Henry Fonda, Joan Bennett.
ATMOSPHERE.—Picturesque romance based on the novel by Stewart Edward White, the struggle between a man's love of change and the love he bears his wife forming the main theme
ORGAN.—"Springtime," Suite, Eric Coates No. 1 (Chappell), with adaptation from the piano-solo copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on H.M.V. C.2926 by the New Light Symphony Orchestra.

"FORCED LANDING" (Paramount)

CERT. U. 6,046 ft. Reg. No. F.4532. Reviewed in KINE. October 9, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 6-sheet.
STARS.—Richard Arlen, Eva Gabor.
ATMOSPHERE.—Aerial melodrama dealing with Fifth Column activity in a Latin-American State; a mixture of romance, comedy and rough-stuff, with an aerial grand finale.
ORGAN.—"Semiramide" Overture, Rossini (Hawkes), finale allegro movement only, with adaptation from the orchestral piano-conductor copy.

"HERE COMES HAPPINESS" (Warner)

CERT. U. 5,187 ft. Reg. No. F.4570. Reviewed in KINE. October 16, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—Mildred Coles, Edward Norris.
ATMOSPHERE.—Romantic comedy, telling of a rich girl who, rather than marry a Society fop, explores the avenues of working-class life and finds there her life's partner, after many adventures.

"THE MONSTER AND THE GIRL" (Paramount)

CERT. H. 5,058 ft. Reg. No. F.4644. Reviewed in KINE. October 30, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 6-sheet.
STARS.—Ellen Drew, Paul Lukas.
ATMOSPHERE.—Macabre melodrama, with an incredible story of a man who returns from the dead in the body of an ape to take revenge on those who had wronged his sister.
ORGAN.—Incidental, "Spectre," J. Engleman (Bosworth), with adaptation from the orchestral piano-conductor copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on Bosworth B.C. 1032 by the International Radio Orchestra.

ATMOSPHERE. Period Western, the sentimental story of a fighting parson in a gold-mining town, told in retrospect, in which the mayor, who has built a church for him, supports his campaign against the hypocritical rich business men.
ORGAN.—"Intermezzo in C," Coleridge-Taylor (Ascherberg), with adaptation from the piano-solo copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on H.M.V. B.8113 by the New Light Symphony Orchestra.

"MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY" (British Lion)

CERT. A. 6,103 ft. Reg. No. F.4403. Reviewed in KINE. August 21, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 12-sheet, one 6-sheet.
STARS.—Dennis O'Keefe, Florence Rice.
ATMOSPHERE.—Romantic melodrama of a young lawyer, who secures a position on a district attorney's staff by unfair influence, but succeeds with the help of a girl, in justifying his position and finds romance in the process.
ORGAN.—Song, "Yours," Sheet-Roig (Mac Melodies), with adaptations from the professional piano-conductor copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on Decca F.7983 by Lew Stone and his Band.

"PRIVATE NURSE" (20th Century-Fox)

CERT. U. 5,495 ft. Reg. No. F.4603. Reviewed in KINE. October 2, 1941.
PUBLICITY.—One 6-sheet.
STARS.—Jane Darwell, Brenda Joyce.
ATMOSPHERE.—Comedy-drama based upon the hazards of the nursing profession. There is a child interest, and the story concludes with an "all's well that ends well" formula.
ORGAN.—"Three Dream Dances" Suite (No. 2), Coleridge-Taylor (Ascherberg), with adaptation from the piano-solo copy.
NON-SYNC.—As organ, recorded on H.M.V. B.8876 by the London Palladium Orchestra.

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"Ships with Wings" Tie-up

THE model of the *Ark Royal*, built for Ealing's Fleet Air Arm film, "Ships With Wings," has been loaned to the National Savings Committee to assist the Warship Weeks campaign, and is to be taken on a provincial tour covering the principal cities in the British Isles.

It is hoped that many Warship Week exhibitions will coincide with the showing of "Ships With Wings," providing exhibitors not only with an invaluable tie-up but also giving them the opportunity of helping the important campaign in their own city.

The impressive model, costing over £1,500, weighs half a ton and is 25 ft. in length, with an interior large enough to hold two men. Made of wood and metal, it was constructed by the craftsmen of Ealing Studios.

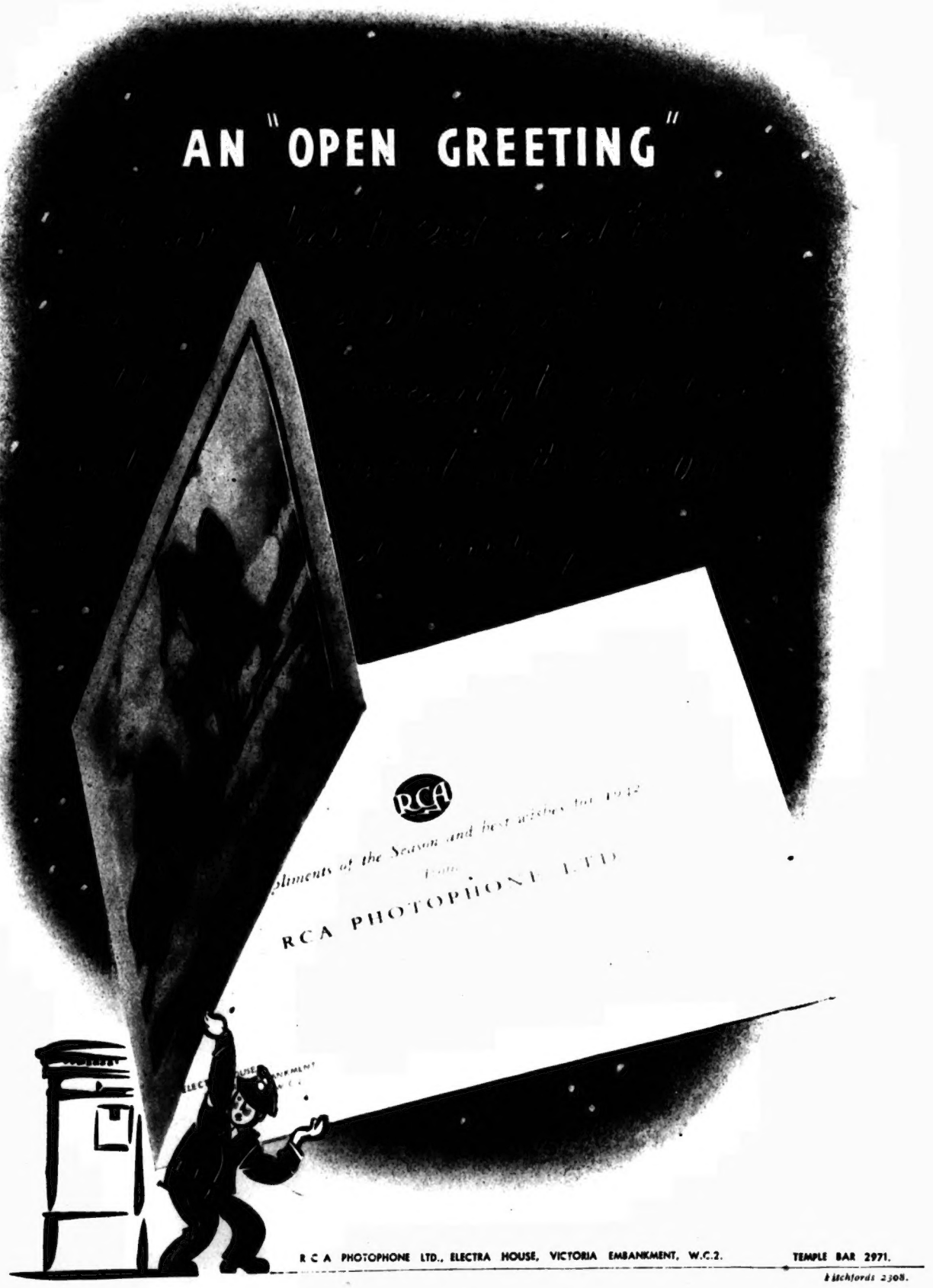
The model's tour will last until the end of the Warship Weeks campaign in March.

Secretarial Equipment

AN interesting window display was arranged for the screening of "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" (M-G-M), by E. P. Hills, of the Princess (Emery), Peterborough.

The window was that of a local stationer, the set-out being various lines of business stationery and requisites, together with a set of stills; arranged in the centre was a blackboard and chalked in various colours, is the message:—

"We are sorry. Owing to war restrictions, our usual supply of business requisites are not available, so ask your office staff to use everything very sparingly, and you business men *must* take your wife and family to see Mickey Rooney in 'Andy Hardy's Private Secretary,' now showing at the Princess Cinema."



KINEMATOGRAPH WEEKLY, Classified Advertisements

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Three lines (average 20 words) 1s., and 4d. for every additional line.

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26 ,, ,, ,, 20
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If printed in Capital Letters, 3d. extra for every 10 words or less.

LATEST TIME for receiving Advertisements is TUESDAY MORNING, FIRST POST

Advertisers using Box Numbers are particularly requested to return any testimonials, photographs, etc., they may receive from unsuccessful enquirers when stamped envelope is supplied

SITUATIONS VACANT

MANAGER wanted (North West), over military age or exempt.—Write, stating experience, references, sending photograph, F., Box 355, Kinematograph Weekly.

WANTED, competent General Manager for privately owned kinema; able to attend to complete running and control, including bookings.—Write, stating qualifications, to Box "A," c/o 95, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

WANTED, Manager for suburban kinema.—Apply, P., Box 363, Kinematograph Weekly.

MANAGER FOR LONDON REPERTORY KINEMA; PLEASING PERSONALITY, DISCIPLINARIAN; CIRCUIT EXPERIENCE DESIRABLE BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.—STATE AGE, EXPERIENCE, SALARY. APPLICATIONS TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY.—N., BOX 362, KINEMATOGRAPH WEEKLY.

WANTED shortly, Chief Operator and Second Operator.—State age, if exempt, wages required, Manager, Regal Kinema, Portland, Dorset.

WANTED, Chief and Second Operators for Kinemas in Home Counties.—Age and full particulars to Shipman and King Circuit, 427, Cecil Chambers, 86, Strand, W.C.2.

WANTED Chief Operator W.E., Simplex; permanent; exempt preferred; comfortable; fair wage. Regal, Warminster, Wilts.

CHIEF, Second Operator and Trainees; easy situation, S.W. London.—'Phone: Battersea 1810, or write or call, Phipps, 32, York Road, S.W.11.

ADVERTISING AGENCY requires Operator-Electrician or good all-round Electrician-Mechanic to take charge maintenance dept. of new daylight publicity film medium; opening presents good opportunity for promotion and important post war berth. Write, stating age, experience, and salary Boy Assistant also required. Replies to J., Box 338, Kinematograph Weekly.

WANTED, Operator for small kinema; B.T.H., Kalees; comfortable position; permanent.—Cinema, Winchcombe, Glos.

SITUATIONS VACANT (cont.)

ENVOY CINEMA, High Road, Kilburn, requires Operators (First, Second, Third), Cashier, and Doorman; good wages and comfortable conditions, in modern miniature super.

WANTED, good Second capable of relieving chief; comfortable, permanent position for sound man; reception area; Simplex, RCA.—Send full partics. to John F. Ash, St. George's, Leatherhead, Surrey Leatherhead 2852.

TWO experienced Shorthand-Typists (aged over 35 years) required by large Circuit evacuated 30 miles from London; living accommodation available; interesting posts for right applicants.—Write in first instance, stating age, experience and salary desired to H., Box 357, Kinematograph Weekly.

WANTED, Young Lady Typist, 30-40, knowledge of film booking and management; responsible position.—Particulars to H. Bancroft, Empire Theatre, Wisbech, Cambs.

SITUATIONS WANTED

MANAGER, fully qualified all branches, open for immediate engagement; excellent refs.; exempt service; moderate salary; London or Home Counties preferred.—L., Box 335, Kinematograph Weekly.

SMART Manager disengaged; over military age; 25 years' experience, in some of our largest kinemas in London.—V., Box 345, Kinematograph Weekly.

EX-MANAGER, NOW DISENGAGED, DESIRES MANAGEMENT OF SMALL HALL, PREFERABLY INDEPENDENT; TOWN OR COUNTRY; AGE 48; GOOD CREDENTIALS; BOND IF REQUIRED.—L., BOX 360, KINEMATOGRAPH WEEKLY.

CHIEF Operator-Manager (married), 38, desires permanent engagement with genial firm; discharged from Forces; either position or joint; life experience; W.E., B.T.H., Kalee, etc.; strict disciplinarian; 5 ft. 10 in.; smart; commence at once. Offers, containing full details, please write or wire, X. Z., 11, Lynn Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn Norfolk.

CHIEF Projectionist requires position; commence January 5; long experience; first-class show guaranteed; will go anywhere; please state salary.—O., Box 363, Kinematograph Weekly.

SITUATIONS WANTED (cont.)

CHIEF Operator, 15 years' experience, desires change; Mirrophonic, B.T.H., RCA, all types of equipment; Eastern Counties preferred.—M., Box 361 Kinematograph Weekly.

MANAGERESS desires management of kinema; preferably independent; London or suburbs most suitable.—A., Box 350, Kinematograph Weekly.

MANAGER-ORGANIST DESIRES CHANGE; FIRST-CLASS EXPERIENCE; INDEPENDENT HALL PREFERRED; COMPETENT AND KEEN; EXEMPT.—K., BOX 359, KINEMATOGRAPH WEEKLY.

EXPERIENCED Chief Operator desires change; W.E., rectifiers, generators, H.I. arcs, Plenum; excellent refs.; salary £6.—D., Box 353, Kinematograph Weekly.

CIRCUIT Engineer or Chief Operator-Electrician requires good permanent position; first-class man with life experience, all types of equipment; age 47.—B., Box 351, Kinematograph Weekly.

COMPETENT Organist, business man, over military age, established 27 years, owing to Government limitation of supplies requires post as Organist; ex-recitalist and acquainted with kinema organ.—Reply, E., Box 354, Kinematograph Weekly.

THEATRE SEATS

WANTED, 100 good second-hand Kinema Seats; modern type.—Particulars and price to Z., Box 340, Kinematograph Weekly.

KINEMAS WANTED

GENTLEMAN owning two kinemas would undertake general management and film booking one or more kinemas, or would rent kinemas for duration of war, in or around Birmingham, area 30 miles.—Full particulars in confidence, C., Box 352, Kinematograph Weekly.

WANTED, Kinema, Midlands or West; £12,000 available. State full particulars, for private owner, G., Box 355, Kinematograph Weekly.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

WANTED, Simplex Double-Gearing Mechanism, in good order. Scala Cinema, Winter Street, Sheffield, 3.

WANTED, Kinema Screen Tabs, 22 ft. deep by 40 ft. wide, centre opening. Also quantity of good quality Carpets in good condition.—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

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FORTHCOMING TRADE SHOWS

LONDON

Date.	Time.	Place.	Title of Film.	Shown by.	Stars.	Cert
Thur.. Dec. 18	11 a.m. ...	Cambridge ...	The Smiling Ghost and Short ...	Warner	Wayne Morris ...	—
.. .. 18	2.30 p.m. ...	Cambridge ...	The Sea Wolf and Short ...	Warner	Edward G. Robinson	—
Fri.. .. 19	11 a.m. ...	Studio One ...	Thieves Fall Out and Short ...	Warner	Eddie Albert	—
.. .. 19	2.30 p.m. ...	Cambridge ...	Shining Victory and Short ...	Warner	James Stephenson ...	—
Mon.. .. 22	2.30 p.m. ...	Cambridge ...	Million Dollar Baby	Warner	Priscilla Lane ...	—
.. .. 22	11a.m. & 2.30p.m.	Own Theatre ...	The Chocolate Soldier	M-G-M	Nelson Eddy... ...	—
Tues.. .. 23	2.30 p.m. ...	London Pavilion	All Americans Co.-ed.	United Artists ...	Frances Langford ...	—
.. .. 23	11a.m. & 2.30p.m.	Own Theatre ...	The Shadow of the Thin Man ...	M-G-M	Myrna Loy	—
BIRMINGHAM						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Scala	Rags to Riches	British Lion ...	Mary Carlisle	A
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Forum	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen... ...	U
.. .. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	West End ...	Sundown	United Artists ...	Gene Tierney ...	A
Mon.. .. 22	11 a.m. ...	Scala	The Singing Hill	British Lion ...	Gene Autry	U
Tues.. .. 23	10.30 a.m. ...	Forum	Mountain Moonlight	British Lion ...	Weaver Brothers ...	U
.. .. 23	10.30 a.m. ...	Scala	Two-Faced Woman	M-G-M	Greta Garbo ...	—
CARDIFF						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Park Hall ...	Mountain Moonlight	British Lion ...	Weaver Brothers ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Empire	Badlands of Dakota	G.F.D.	Robert Stack	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Odeon	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen... ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Olympia	Smilin' Through	M-G-M	Jeanette MacDonald...	U
Tues.. .. 23	10.30 a.m. ...	Park Hall ...	Flight Into Danger	Federated Film	Bruce Bennett ...	U
.. .. 23	10.30 a.m. ...	Park Hall ...	The Monster Walked	Federated Film	Mischa Auer	H
.. .. 23	10.45 a.m. ...	Empire	Two-Faced Woman	M-G-M	Greta Garbo	—
GLASGOW						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	La Scala	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen... ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Picture House ...	Sundown	United Artists ...	Gene Tierney	A
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Regal	Two-Faced Woman	M-G-M	Greta Garbo	—
LEEDS						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Ritz	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen... ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Tower	Blood and Sand	20th Century-Fox	Tyrone Power ...	A
Tues.. .. 23	10.30 a.m. ...	Scala	Smilin' Through	M-G-M	Jeanette MacDonald...	U
LIVERPOOL						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Trocadero ...	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen ...	U
.. .. 19	11 a.m. ...	Majestic	The Singing Hill	British Lion ...	Gene Autry	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Palais de Luxe ...	Smilin' Through	M-G-M	Jeanette MacDonald...	U
MANCHESTER						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Oxford Street ...	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen ...	U
.. .. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Market Street ...	Flight into Danger	Federated Film	Bruce Bennett ...	U
.. .. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Market Street ...	The Monster Walked	Federated Film	Mischa Auer	H
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Theatre Royal ...	Burma Convoy	G.F.D.	Chas. Bickford ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Gaumont ...	Two-Faced Woman	M-G-M	Greta Garbo	—
Tues.. .. 23	10.45 a.m. ...	Gaiety	Lucky Ralston	G.F.D.	Johnny Mack Brown ...	U
.. .. 23	10.45 a.m. ...	Gaiety	Law of the Range	G.F.D.	Johnny Mack Brown	U
NEWCASTLE						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Grainger ...	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Queen's	Mountain Moonlight	British Lion ...	Weaver Brothers ...	U
.. .. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Odeon	Birth of the Blues	Paramount ...	Bing Crosby	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Essoldo	Smilin' Through	M-G-M	Jeanette MacDonald...	U
NOTTINGHAM						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Hippodrome ...	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Scala	Hi, Gang!	G.F.D.	Bebe Daniels	U
.. .. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Ritz	Birth of the Blues	Paramount ...	Bing Crosby	U
Tues.. .. 23	10.45 a.m. ...	News Theatre ...	Bombay Clipper	G.F.D.	William Gargan ...	A
.. .. 23	10.30 a.m. ...	Scala	Two-Faced Woman	M-G-M	Greta Garbo	—
SHEFFIELD						
Fri.. Dec. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Hippodrome ...	Look Who's Laughing	RKO-Radio ...	Edgar Bergen... ...	U
.. .. 19	10.45 a.m. ...	Cinema House ...	Mountain Moonlight	British Lion ...	Weaver Brothers ...	U
.. .. 19	10.30 a.m. ...	Regent	Sundown	United Artists ...	Gene Tierney ...	A
Tues.. .. 23	10.45 a.m. ...	Cinema House ...	It Started with Eve	G.F.D.	Deanna Durbin ...	U
Wed.. .. 24	10.45 a.m. ...	Cinema House ...	Hi, Gang!	G.F.D.	Bebe Daniels... ...	U

Appreciation

"Many thanks for your weekly remarks on Showmanship. It seems you help us managers a lot with our own efforts."

Bert Gordon Smith
The Empire,
Alfreton,
Derbyshire.

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